# Daily Report

# Latin America

FBIS-LAT-92-238
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10 December 1992

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*FBIS-LAT-92-238* *10 December 1992*

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## Cuba

### Government Discusses Humanitarian Aid to Somalia

*PA1012042592 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0349 GMT 10 Dec 92*

[Text] Havana, 9 Dec (NOTIMEX)—On 9 December, Cuba urged that the military intervention in Somalia authorized by the United Nations and directed by the United States be restricted to complying with the humanitarian objectives of protecting the supply of food and medicines.

Cuban Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon emphasized that "it is important the organization stop at that and humanitarian concerns not be manipulated for other political purposes."

He emphasized "the (UN) Security Council is not a body designed to handle humanitarian concerns, even though we are not going to oppose and object this effort to help the Somalis."

U.S. troops, as well as Italian and French troops, began on 8 December to take up strategic positions on the coasts and the capital of Somalia to protect the distribution of humanitarian aid blocked by local armed bands.

At least 28,000 U.S. troops and a smaller amount from about 12 countries are expected to arrive within the next few weeks.

### Delegation Meets With Bolivian Military Leaders

*FL0912232792 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 9 Dec 92*

[Text] Today, the Cuban military delegation visiting Bolivia held a meeting with the high military command of that South American country. The meeting took place at the Army General Headquarters and was chaired by defense minister, Admiral Miguel Saenz. The commanders in chief of all the branches of the Armed Forces were in attendance: Generals Oscar Vargas, Oscar Escobar, and Largo Gomez, and Admiral Miguel Alvarez.

The meeting was held at the headquarters' spacious Hall of the Flags where General Oscar Roca, on behalf of the hosts, welcomed those he addressed as: Comrades and friends from Jose Marti's fatherland.

Gen. Roca also stressed the cordial ties between the Bolivian and Cuban people, which, according to him, provide tangible evidence of Latin American brotherhood. He also reminisced about the hospitality of Cuban soldiers toward Bolivian soldiers who have visited Cuba.

Gen. Leornardo Andollo, during his speech on behalf of the delegation of 41 students from the National Defense School and other officials, expressed gratitude for the opportunity to visit Bolivia. According to the Cuban military official, it represents an opportunity to develop an exchange of knowledge and experience for better understanding, which should result in a small contribution toward the Latin American unity that our national heroes dreamed of Gen. Andollo also relayed a greeting from Gen. Raul Castro, the minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR], and all the FAR members.

Earlier, The Cuban delegation had laid a wreath at the foot of the monument to Bolivia's top national hero, Gen. Eduardo Abaroa, and were invited to attend the 71th anniversary of the Military Geography Institute, which was also attended by Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora.

### Fuel Shortages Cause Unscheduled Power Outages

*FL0912174592 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1534 GMT 9 Dec 92*

[Text] Emergency power outages took place from 2300 to 0200 on 9 December in Havana because of lack of fuel at electricity plants. During that period, areas of Marianao, Playa, and La Lisa were without power. For the same reason, areas of Cotorro, Guanabacoa, Regla, and San Miguel del Padron were also disconnected from 0200 to 0500.

Havana Electricity Enterprise Spokesman Arturo Mora said that the situation for 9 December is similar. For this reason, the shortfall in electricity generation has made it necessary to disconnect prioritized circuits such as the eastern underground network, which includes the area between Avenida del Puerto and Calle Amistad and from Monte to the Malecon. Mora stressed that, if necessary, the western underground network, which extends from Amistad to Belascoain and from the Malecon to Salvador Allende Avenue, will also be disconnected.

### Castro on Health Care at Ameijeiras Hospital

*FL0712142092 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0229 GMT 5 Dec 92*

[Speech by Cuban President Fidel Castro at 10th anniversary ceremony at Hermanos Ameijeiras Clinical Surgical Hospital in Havana on 3 December—recorded]

[Text] [Castro] We can say that millions of people in this municipality—counting the ones from the municipality, the province, and the whole country—have received services from this hospital in a direct manner. I believe that over 2 million people have been treated in this hospital. The fact that over 100,000 major surgical procedures have been conducted is also very impressive, as well as the tens of thousands of minor, less important surgical procedures conducted at other hospitals. Millions of people have also received here the services of computerized axial tomography or different investigative and diagnostic methods. I understand that tens of thousands....[pauses] [Hospital Director Raul Gomez] Cabrera, I do not remember what figure you mentioned regarding lithotripsy. How many? Nine thousand for

lithotripsy. And over 30,000 for nuclear magnetic resonance. Is that right? Thirty-seven thousand people have received nuclear magnetic resonance services.

In other words, this center has earned the affection, recognition, and respect of all the people for the work conducted, for the optimum use of its resources, for the meticulous medical care provided here, for your careful maintenance of this facility and its equipment, for the very high number of professionals [words indistinct] of different types, professionals from this hospital as well as professional from throughout Cuba, as well as foreign professionals.

This center has not only been fulfilling all our expectations, but [words indistinct]. This is why the number of delegations that have visited this hospital is so high. Cabrera mentioned that over 40,000 foreigners have visited the Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital. There is practically not a single delegation that visits Cuba which, whenever we want to show our achievements in health care, does not come to the Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital.

We have to keep in mind that the idea that hospitals had to conduct research was implemented [here] first, the idea that all major hospitals had to conduct research, and in that regard, this hospital followed that path and set an example for other institutions in Cuba. This also was the first hospital to have its own maintenance workshop. This idea has been followed by many other Cuban hospitals, and these workshops have helped in solving countless problems. We have to keep in mind that the Havana's electro-medicine center has not been built. Almost every province has its own electro-medicine center, but the capital does not. Nevertheless, you have managed to maintain almost 100 percent of the equipment in working order despite its age. This is thanks, precisely, to the workshop, the very careful work done, and the innovators' and efficiency experts' efforts.

Through this hospital, very advanced techniques have been introduced in terms of diagnosis and patient care. [Words indistinct] the most modern scientific development [words indistinct] in the provinces. We have to say that Ameijeiras Hospital is the only hospital that has nuclear magnetic resonance of this quality and efficiency, but it served as an inspiration for our scientists to begin working on developing nuclear magnetic resonance. In Santiago de Cuba, they already have a Cuban-made nuclear magnetic resonance machine, developed in Cuba.

It can be said that our medicine in general has progressed a lot in these 10 years. Really, the idea of our becoming a medical power has become a reality in these 10 years. We are also becoming a power in the medical sciences, and a power in science in general. One of the fields in which we have made the most progress is precisely the field of medicine. We are making a lot of progress in the fields of biotechnology and the pharmaceutical industry.

Why, in spite of our progress in the field of the pharmaceutical industry, do we not have all the medicines we need? Because no country can produce all its medicines. Many medicines must be imported in any case, or if they are generic drugs they must be reformulated. The raw materials must be imported.

They must be processed. We have worked in all these fields. The technical medical laboratory has worked on this a lot. If we produce many of those generic drugs here we will reduce the costs, and they are working on hundreds of medical products with these generic drugs, to work with them here and produce them here after importing the raw materials. But this is a complex process.

But in addition, we are producing new medicines. We export new medicines, and we import medicines that we do not and cannot produce in this country. There are some medicines that are cheaper to import than to produce. There are others that we cannot produce because they are complex or because you need quite sophisticated factories to produce them. So because of that, on the one hand we can say that we are developing the pharmaceutical industry and exporting drugs, and on the other hand, we hear that we lack medicines.

In spite of the efforts we are making, really these medicines are lacking primarily because of the country's shortage of resources, and the country has asked that they be used for those drugs that are essential. Nevertheless, we are working. We are making a great effort to try to maintain the availability of these medicines.

There are many things we need. We need to keep the lights on; we need to keep the machines and factories working. The amount of resources that we have to invest on fuel is very large. An extraordinary portion of our resources has to be invested on fuel. Another substantial portion has to be invested on medicine; another portion must be invested especially on food. In other words, we have to manage our scarce resources so that we can continue taking care of the top priorities, the essential needs of the country during this hard special period we are experiencing.

However, proof of what man is able to accomplish resides in the fact that the quality of our medical services has not dropped. Despite the special period, the quality of our medical services continues to increase. The number of doctors and health care workers continues to grow. The level of experience of those doctor and health care workers continues to increase.

A good example of this is that no one knew what was going to happen to the infant mortality rates during the special period. It was thought that infant mortality might increase due to all the shortages that we have. In fact, infant mortality has not increased. Infant mortality continues to drop. [applause]

Yesterday, the comrade from Granma Province explained that despite having shortages of 300 medicines, Granma's infant mortality rate—and do not forget it was one of the poorest regions of Cuba—this year dropped below 10 [per 1,000 live births]. This is truly amazing. You know that in the mountains and rural areas of that province, people died, children died without any medical care. Although the national average was approximately 60, that province may possibly have had around 100. [passage indistinct] Infant mortality in Granma, I repeat, is below 10. I believe that Villa Clara Province had an infant mortality rate of 6.8, below seven, if I remember correctly. Nationally, infant mortality was—according to news reports—about 10.4 or 10.5, when last year it was 10.7. We will wait for the end of the year, we will wait for 31 December, and we expect that at the end, on 31 December, we will have a rate two or three tenths less than the rate we had in 1991. I think this says a lot about what our medical services are like, about the efforts of the men and women—or better said, the women and men—who work in the health care services, [applause] because women are in the majority in this sector. The other health indicators show similar behavior in our country.

But you can see that there are very few countries that have infant mortality rates of less than 10. They are very rich, very developed countries. Infant mortality in the capital of the United States is more than 30 per 1,000 live births, more than 30 in spite of all the empire's resources. We are nearing 10, in spite of the embargo, in spite of our enormous difficulties, and in spite of the special period. I think that this rate, this detail, is really very revealing, and it is a reason for warmly congratulating all our doctors, our health care personnel, on this Latin American Health Day. [applause] Because our health indicators are the best in Latin America, the best in the Third World, and among the best in the world. [applause]

I am sure that in no other country in the world do all the citizens have the same rights and the same possibility of receiving top health care as in Cuba. There are capitalist countries that have high health care levels but where those high health care levels are for the rich. There are many wealthy capitalist countries where there might be hospitals similar to this one, but not hospitals where the people are treated with the selflessness and love with which patients are treated in this hospital and the rest of the hospitals in Cuba. [applause] There might be hospitals like this one, but only for millionaires, only for the very rich. The people, the workers, the poor, people on fixed incomes, the elderly, or children and young people from poor families are not treated at hospitals like this one. The unique characteristic of this hospital is that it is open to every citizen of Cuba. [applause]

For this reason we were reflecting on [words indistinct] of the industry [words indistinct]. It seems that [words indistinct] made by the chemical, energy, and mining (?official) when he said that thanks to the Revolution, any humble worker can receive the services of this hospital. Now, Gomez Cabrera spoke about their plans to become self-financed. When we talk about self-financing we are talking hard currency, because you can imagine the cost of a hospital such as this one—all the equipment and its spare parts, reagents, medical supplies. He was not speaking about self-financing the general cost of the hospital. He was talking about self-financing in hard currency.

How can you manage to collect $1 million, $2 million, or $3 million to keep the hospital in operation, to buy the parts, reagents, and equipment you need? We have tried to have all those hospitals that are in a position to do so, all those that can, obtain some income in hard currency to help in financing themselves. This is not easy, and they will not be able to finance themselves entirely. But if they devote 100 beds to this goal, it will mean medicines and funds to cover the other 800 beds.

This is very important, and of course, with the prestige this hospital has, I have no doubt that little by little you will reach this goal. But look, there will be 800 beds for Cubans and 100 beds for foreigners. Now, the medical care these foreigners receive and pay for is the same medical care that is provided for the other 800 beds, for Cuban citizens. I think this hospital has set an example and has given an incentive to many other institutions.

In general, there is a scientific effervescence throughout the country, everywhere, in all the provinces. The number of doctors is growing. The number of family doctors is increasing. It will continue to increase in the coming years. In no other country in a special period, in no other country with the difficulties Cuba has, could the number of doctors continue to increase. They would have to say to those who are graduating from the medical colleges and schools that they do not have jobs.

But precisely because of the advantages of our socialist system, the advantages of our revolutionary system, we can, in the midst of enormous difficulties, in the midst of the special period, afford not to throw any worker out on the street. We can afford not to close a single hospital. [applause] We can afford not to close a single polyclinic. We can afford not to close a single family doctor's office. On the contrary, we can say that every year we have more family doctor's offices. Every year, we have more family doctors and nurses. When we have not been able to built new medical offices, we have assigned two doctors to the same office, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. Or we have sent them to a factory, or a school, or a childcare center.

Only a country with a just social system, only a country with a revolutionary system, can do this. For this same reason, not a single school has been closed, and every time that a new teacher graduates, he is not sent to the

streets, he has a (?job). Teachers are allowed to study and improve themselves, but they are not left on the streets. Also, for this reason, not a single school has been closed in Cuba.

What do they lament in Latin America? That hospitals are being closed, school are being closed. This is the neoconservative policy imperialism advocates so that the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.

What do they lament? That doctors are unemployed, nurses are unemployed, and teachers are unemployed. What do they lament? That everything is deteriorating in terms of social assistance. Why did Bush lose the elections? Not only for the many reasons for which he lost, or for which he deserved to lose. He lost the elections because in the United States they neglected health services, education, unemployment, and social injustice too long. For this reason, all the lower-income people, all those who are most discriminated against, all those exploited people voted en masse against Bush in the United States.

However, this country, embargoed by imperialism, a country under siege, can do things that no other Latin American country can do, things not even the United States can do. [applause] This is the significance of the Revolution. This is the significance of socialism. This is the reason that we have to defend it at any cost, because we can not resign ourselves to living in a unfair society. We can not resign ourselves to living in a society of exploitation. For this reason, regardless of the difficulties, regardless of the sacrifices, we will defend the Revolution and we will defend socialism. [applause] For the success of these 10 years, for Latin American Medicine Day, for that morale and that spirit I congratulate all of you. [applause] Socialism or death, fatherland or death, we will win! [applause]

## Foreign Affairs Minister Addresses Senate

*PA0912161692 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 9 Dec 92*

[Text] Mexican Foreign Relations Secretary Fernando Solana Morales appeared before the Senate to report on Mexican foreign affairs over the last 12 months. Solana said that, in light of the paradoxical and unstable world panorama, Mexico's international activities will remain clear and firm in order to ensure that Mexicans decide their own destiny.

[Begin Solana recording] The purpose of our foreign policy is to establish new ties with the more dynamic international associates and make a commitment to remaining open to exchanges with all the regions without subordinating our sovereignty. Mexico reaffirms its strategy of openness and diversification and, at the same time, maintains its decision not to become a part of hermetic blocs or integrate exclusive commercial zones. [end recording]

The foreign affairs secretary reiterated that Mexico will continue its diplomatic, legal, and political efforts to achieve revocation of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling with regard to kidnapping and trying Mexicans, as well as the so-called Torricelli Law, as they are considered to be violations of the principle of coexistence of states.

[Begin Solana recording] Only by respecting international laws, state sovereignty, the principles of finding peaceful solutions to controversies and nonintervention, the right to the people's self-determination, the proscription of threats or the use of force, and the legal equality of states, will we be able to ensure peace, security, and the establishment of a more prosperous and just international order for all the inhabitants of the planet. [end recording]

Fernando Solana said Mexican foreign policy is based on six points: Preserving and strengthening the sovereignty, contributing to the country's development, protecting Mexicans abroad, cooperating with international organizations, disseminating our culture, and projecting a positive image of our nation.

## Attorney General's Office Dismisses U.S. Charges

*PA0812151792 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 8 Dec 92*

[Text] The Attorney General's Office [PGR] on 7 December dismissed the statements by the U.S. District Attorney's Office, through attorneys Carlton and Medrano, has slandered different public officials of the Mexican Government and political personalities in our country. They have accused the Mexican Government and political personalities based the testimony of hired people for such purposes by the DEA.

In a press communique, the PGR said that the U.S. prosecutor has acted in an irresponsible and immoral manner by involving persons who have held important political posts [in the murder of DEA agent Camarena], based on the testimony of criminals and outlaws who deserve no credibility in light of their personal records.

The communique added that this is an illegal trial to begin with, because it is derived from the kidnapping of Humberto Alvarez Machain, his forced transfer to the United States, and his trial despite the protests of the Mexican Government and the opposition of several international agencies.

These circumstances, the PGR continued, darken and undermine the legitimacy of the process. The PGR insists that the charges lack credibility and authenticity, because they are based on the testimony of criminals, who have received money, immunity, and protection.

The homicides of DEA agent Enrique Camarena Salazar and Mexican citizen Alfredo Zavala Avelar were perpetrated on Mexican territory. By virtue of this fact, the trial that is taking place in the United States to clarify the aforementioned crimes clearly violates international law and Mexican jurisdiction.

It is up to Mexican authorities to investigate and try these incidents. In keeping with this authority, to date, Mexican authorities have tried 44 people, who are considered allegedly to be responsible for these incidents. They have all been found guilty for their participation in different parts of these crimes.

In contrast to the legal attitude of Mexican authorities, it is unjustifiable and reproachable that the U.S. authorities have hired criminals to testify before the California Central District Court. The statements by those people, given the basic principles of law, lack credibility and veracity. In addition, it is public knowledge that each of these witnesses receives $3,000 in expenses per month, as well as family expenses. Six of them have well-documented criminal records, which are as follows: Lorenzo Harrison, charged with drug trafficking; Rene Lopez Remuero, processed for abuse of authority; Jorge Antonio Godoy Lopez, also known as El Coque, charged with robbery, carrying an illegal weapon, and criminal association; Fernando Enrique Davila Hernandez, processed for purchasing stolen merchandise; Ernesto Ramon Lira Garcia, charged with robbery; Juan Pozos Lepe, processed for robbery.

Two of the prosecutor's witnesses, namely Rene Lopez Romero and Ramon Ernesto Lira, should be singled out. The former served as an agent for the Jalisco Judiciary Police in 1984, the year in which six members of the Jehovah's Witness sect were killed. The latter was a bodyguard of Ernesto Fonseca Carrillo. By signing a letter of commitment with the U.S. District Attorney's Office to testify, both declared that they participated in the kidnapping and murder of the four U.S. missionaries. According to them, the four missionaries approached the door of one of the houses of Ernesto Fonseca Carrillo, also known as Don Neto, and, confusing them with DEA agents, were stripped, blindfolded, and tortured during interrogation.

In addition, according to the version of the District Attorney's Office witnesses, they were later taken to the outskirts of the city of Guadalajara, where they were forced to dig their own graves and were later killed and buried.

## Low Voter Turnout Marks 'Calm' Elections

*PA0712154992 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 7 Dec 92*

[Text] In Michoacan, the elections at 113 municipalities took place in an atmosphere of peace, calm, and low voter turnout. The interim government acknowledged that few voters had cast their ballots and what was more eye-catching is that in Morelia, the capital, the voter turnout was extremely low. It appears that the Michoacan residents want to send a message, give a sign, to the whole country of what has happened in the past in this state.

On 6 December at 0800, the voting tables opened throughout Michoacan where 113 municipality officials were elected. Michoacan Governor Ausencio Chavez Hernandez noted—after casting his vote—that during the installation of the voting tables no major incidents had been registered. Here is what Chavez said:

[Begin Chavez recording] I would like to state that in the past eight days there have been some isolated incidents that always occur, fortunately we are participating in an electoral process in which many different parties are represented. Those confrontations that come up are simply partisan and political incidents, but they are no longer the same ones that for decades took place in our state. [end recording]

Nevertheless, after midday, members of the National Action Party and of the Party of the Democratic Revolution charged, in separate news conferences, that there had been irregularities during the installation of the voting tables such as the location, the untimely opening of the tables, and the lack of ballots. Meanwhile, Michoacan Government Secretary Octavio Aparicio reported that those irregularities had been corrected during the morning.

## Petroleum Official on Privatization, Investments

*PA1012043492 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 10 Dec 92*

[Text] Mexican Petroleum [Pemex] will not privatize 100 percent of secondary integrated petrochemical industry stock, Pemex Petrochemical Director Jaime Mario Willars Andrade reported at a news conference.

Willars Andrade said the new company's strategy is to focus on making the Mexican petrochemical industry efficient and competitive at the international level.

Willars Andrade warned that the petrochemical industry is facing a period of recession throughout the world.

[Begin Willars Andrade recording] I think the largest investments in the petrochemical industry will occur one and one-half to two years from now. The industry is currently reorganizing its portfolio, forming alliances, strengthening production networks, and focusing on areas where greater advantages may be obtained. [end recording]

At a news conference, Willars Andrade reported the guidelines of the working program of this new branch of Pemex, which concerns the secondary petrochemical industry. He reported that its operating budget for 1993 will total 1,932 million new pesos. He added that among its main projects, with the participation of private investors, are one to prepare MTV [expansion unknown], the oxygenated component used in gasoline; and another to produce a component used in preparing biodegradable detergents, which is part of the Pemex ecological package.

The petrochemical industry encompasses several activities that use natural gas and some petroleum byproducts as raw materials. The transformation of these chemicals results in the creation of to make fertilizers, plastics, and synthetic material used for various industrial purposes.

Pemex Petrochemical has 60 plants that make 60 different products.

## El Salvador

### Cristiani on Arms Inventory, Intelligence Files

*PA1012045392 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 9 Dec 92 p 33*

[Text] On 8 December, President Alfredo Cristiani reported Onusal [UN Observers for El Salvador] will disclose the missile inventory presented by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front].

At an improvised news conference after the Atlacatl Battalion was demobilized, Cristiani answered questions from reporters on the situation in the country.

Regarding the surrender of sophisticated war materiel with enormous destructive power, the president revealed that the FMLN gave a missile inventory to Onusal delegates, but did not say if a copy had been sent to the government. He added that the destruction of missiles is more difficult because missiles are very specialized weapons.

Regarding the military intelligence files at the office that operated under the name National Intelligence Directorate, the president said all the files would be transferred to the responsibility and custody of the Armed Forces Joint Command Staff because the information in the files are of a strictly military nature. He added the files will not be destroyed as the FMLN demanded.

President Cristiani admitted the events in the past days and up to 15 December, are of great significance to the country because peace and tranquillity are at stake. He hoped peace would be permanent and that the events would bring extraordinary benefits to all the citizens.

Asked about the presence since 8 November of a group of FMLN members at the entrance of the Atlacatl Battalion's headquarters, near the San Juan Opico turnoff on the Santa Ana highway, he answered they were ridiculously trying to harass the Armed Forces. The National Police stopped the people from entering the military installations.

### Committee Notes FMLN, Government Compliance

*PA0912214992 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Dec 92*

[Excerpt] On 9 December, the Permanent Committee for the National Debate on Peace, CPDN, recognized the progress made by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, and the government in complying with the peace agreements.

Reverend Edgar Palacios said both sides have shown their political willingness for peace and democracy. He noted, however, the government and FMLN still have to comply with important pending agreements.

[Begin Palacios recording] We must note, however, that some important agreements are still pending. One of them refers to the responsibilities of the Legislative Assembly for proposals presented by the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace, Copaz. We are basically talking about the electoral code, the wounded, the judicature, and the registration of the FMLN as a legal party.

We must mention another aspect pending compliance by both the Armed Forces and the FMLN. The Armed Forces must continue the demilitarization process and the purging of the military institution and the FMLN must complete the destruction of its weapons and its total demobilization. [end recording] [passage omitted]

### FMLN Leader Views Battalion Demobilization

*PA0912142792 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Dec 92*

[Text] Sigfrido Reyes, member of the Political-Diplomatic Commission of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, expressed his satisfaction with the demobilization of the Atlacatl Battalion. He said this action increases confidence in the peace process that began on 16 January.

Reyes said the demobilization of that military unit is of great importance because it was one of the most worrisome points within the process of reducing the Army in compliance with the peace agreements.

Nongovernmental humanitarian organizations and the FMLN have accused members of that military unit of committing serious violations of human rights during the almost 12 years of civil war that left more than.... Atlacatl Battalion meant intimidation and terror. He added that its demobilization means we are on the right track.

## Guatemala

### Russia Offers To Mediate in Peace Talks

*PA1012034592 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 9 Dec 92 p 2*

[Text] The Foreign Ministry reported on 8 December that the Russian Government, led by Boris Yeltsin, reaffirmed its offer to cooperate in finding a solution to the armed conflict and in the repatriation of Guatemalan refugees from Mexico.

The Foreign Ministry learned of the Russian Government's offer through its permanent representative at the OAS. According to the source, Russia expressed the need for cooperation in the national dialogue process, as this is the only country that "continues to be a focus of tension in the region."

According to the Foreign Ministry, the report comes from the Press and Information Director of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It refers to efforts to find a peaceful solution to the internal armed conflict and to

sign an agreement that will finally allow the return of Guatemalan refugees now living in Mexico.

The Russian official indicated that his government confirmed its willingness to contribute as much as possible to find a peaceful end, to include requesting UN mediation in the negotiation process between the government and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity.

The source pointed out, however, that a UN presence in Guatemala would be suggested only on the condition of having "the support and understanding of the Guatemalan Government."

According to statements by the Russian official, which were translated by the Guatemalan Foreign Ministry, Russia is watching the events in this Central American country closely and is pleased with the willingness shown by the two sides to find a solution to the crisis situation. This willingness is demonstrated with specific steps directed at establishing peace in Guatemala.

Concerning this issue, Russia reaffirmed its offer of several weeks ago, which was duly reported by government sources at that time.

### Menendez Denies Maritime Agreement With Belize

*PA1012043592 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 9 Dec 92 p 27*

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Gonzalo Menendez Park has said that Belizean authorities have not set any conditions on the government actions before the Government of Belize, with whom Guatemala has an ongoing dispute.

The minister said the government has not accepted an undefined maritime extension or access to the Caribbean, as Belizean Prime Minister George Price allegedly announced.

Opposition Deputy Jorge Eduardo Garcia-Salas quoted Price and said there has been a "buy and sell transaction" on the Belize issue.

Arturo Alvarado Perez, secretary of public affairs at the presidency, said the Belizean minister did not make officially the statements that have been credited to him. [passage omitted]

### CPR Denies Ties to Guerrillas, Reports Abuses

*PA1012033792 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Dec 92*

[Text] The Communities of Resistant People [CPR] of the mountainous area of Ixcan, Quiche, on 9 December publicly rejected the Defense Ministry's statements linking the CPR to insurgent acts. The CPR reported Army harassment against its members. This was reported at a news conference in Guatemala City:

[Begin unidentified CPR leader recording] The CPR of the mountain area of Ixcan reports the defense minister has again started to slander us. He accused us repeatedly of being the guerrillas' political branch. It is regrettable that the Army could not maintain a serious position after recognizing us as part of the civilian population at a news conference on 31 August. This recognition was made through a Defense Ministry spokesman.

Throughout this year the Army has made very contradictory statements about the CPR. An observer would have a hard time figuring out which Army version to believe. Contradictory statements by the Army about the CPR are commonplace. Army statements about the CPR do not bother us, but now it is saying the CPR is the political branch of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity. In so doing, the Army is announcing and justifying in advance new repression, machine gun operations, and bombing against the people.

This has happened on numerous occasions and happened recently, as reflected by the following:

From 21 to 27 November, various Army patrols from garrisons in Playa Grande, (Cuarto Pueblo), and (Pueblo Nuevo La Resurreccion), made up of about 450 men, showed up in communities, including (Cuarto Pueblo) and Los Angeles, located north of the CPR. On 29 November, the Army attacked those communities openly and the peasants could only manage to escape with a few goods. They left behind the rest of their property, including tools, kitchen utensils, agricultural products, clothing, blankets, medicine, and domestic animals.

The Army found no one in the communities, which are populated by about 600 residents, and proceeded to loot and torch the houses; kill and eat domestic animals; and steal valuables. On 30 November, the Army continued its criminal actions, leaving only rubble and ashes in the communities. The community of Los Angeles had been bombed on 27 July 1992 and later visited by a multiparty commission. On this occassion, the Army torched houses there. [end recording]

## Honduras

### Police Seize Cocaine After 'Intense Operations'

*PA0812211792 Tegucigalpa Telesistema Hondureno Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 8 Dec 92*

[Excerpts] It has been established that in the past few hours, as a result of intense operations in the southern part of the country, the police have seized 276 kg of cocaine worth more than 50 million lempiras on the black market.

The cocaine was found in the fake flooring of a container and a truck that on 4 December arrived from Nicaragua at La Fraternidad Customs Post. [passage omitted]

The authorities found 180 kg of the drug in a yellow truck with Guatemala license plates C-8943 and TC-3566, owned by Francisco Toledo, who lives in Guatemala, and driven by Byron Roberto Mendoza Giron, 18. According to the police, Mendoza Giron is under arrest.

Following this truck was a white container-type trailer, with license plates 21779 and 4989, owned by Arnoldo Robaldias, from Guatemala, and driven by Andres Salazar Flores, who, after noticing that the drugs in the truck ahead of him had been discovered, abandoned his vehicle which contained 96 kg of cocaine. [passage omitted]

## Panama

### Minister, Court President on Noriega POW Status

*PA1012041592 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Dec 92*

[Report by Fernando Fernandez; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...sentence in a civilian prison or a military base, Foreign Minister Julio Linares has said.

President Guillermo Endara Galimany said that he could not care less about the decision by U.S. Judge William Hoeveler declaring former Panamanian leader Manuel Antonio Noriega a prisoner of war.

But Foreign Minister Julio Linares explained that this decision is of some slight interest.

[Begin recording] [Linares] It is curious to see that after having been processed and tried for serious political offenses like drug related crimes, it now turns out that he is a prisoner of war. I believe this will have some juridical influence over the civil actions because in Panama, the United States, and different parts of the world, claims have been filed against insurance companies. The fact that this judge declared Noriega a prisoner of war will have or could have influence on those civil actions.

[First unidentified reporter] Could this change the status of some prisoners who were arrested following the invasion of Panama?

[Linares] This will change the status of civil actions, not criminal lawsuits, because the judge's ruling is limited to and is only applicable on U.S. territory and not on foreign territory.

The case of civil actions is different because this ruling can be considered by judges as a precedent. But the judge's ruling will not have an influence on criminal lawsuits. [end recording]

The decision by U.S. Judge William Hoeveler has prompted serious reactions in Panama. It is not known yet where Noriega will serve his sentence.

The fact that Manuel Antonio Noriega is considered a prisoner of war in the United States will not affect the processes against him in Panama, Supreme Court President Carlos Lucas Lopez stated.

[Begin recording] [Lopez] I do not think this ruling will have any impact in Panama. It could have impact in the United States on the fulfillment or application of Noriega's sentence. But it will have no impact on the processes against Noriega in Panamanian courts.

[Second unidentified reporter] Could this set a precedent for other persons who are also being processed?

[Lopez] Well, it could be a precedent in the United States. In Panama, I do not see why.

[Reporter] It is rumored that Noriega could get out of jail before his sentence expires because he was declared a political prisoner. Is this possible?

[Lopez] Listen, I cannot answer that because I am not familiar with proceedings against military prisoners in U.S. courts. But I feel that for now the only impact of the judge's ruling will be that Noriega will serve his sentence in a military prison instead of a state prison.

[Reporter] Will this have an impact on the processes against Noriega in Panama?

[Lopez] I do not see why it should. [end recording]

## Argentina

### Sending Troops to Somalia, Mozambique Considered

*PY0912231092 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1900 GMT 9 Dec 92*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Dec (TELAM)—The Argentine Army has started to take a number of steps in light of a possible Argentine decision to join the multinational peacekeeping force in Somalia, within the framework of the UN-sponsored humanitarian mission designed to curb violence and prevent the Somalis from continuing to starve to death.

Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Martin Balza has stated that the possibility of sending Argentine troops to Somalia is being evaluated. For his part, Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez noted that this mission will be "more noble than one to Croatia," because this one will make it possible for adults and children alike to receive the food they need.

Today, Gonzalez continued to study the possibility of sending troops to Somalia and Mozambique, and was expecting an updated evaluation by General Eduardo Fiorda, the Argentine military attache in the United States, to advise President Menem about what steps should be taken on this matter.

Defense Ministry sources have said that defense officials today evaluated the various alternatives for Argentina to participate in the multinational peacekeeping force being deployed in Somalia.

One possibility is that of sending military physicians and nurses from the three forces to support efforts to give assistance to the starving Somalis who are roaming the streets in that country, looking for food in order not to starve to death.

Another more complex possibility is that of sending no more than 150 servicemen to perform a specific military role.

In this last case, the source said, it is being considered whether a specific authorization from Congress would be required.

The Argentine Foreign Ministry reiterated today that Argentina "fully supports" UN Security Council Resolution No. 794 and "is prepared to actively cooperate" with this organization.

The Foreign Ministry also stated that it is "an obligation" for the international community "to act decisively and effectively" to promote the establishment of "an atmosphere of peace and security in Somalia that would be conducive to the distribution of food and medicines" that are essential to save human lives and "to find an adequate solution to the crisis."

Gen. Balza stated that "there is great understanding among the people about these efforts by the Argentine military to promote world peace." He added that "the high professional morale existing within the Army has a lot to do with its new role, with its involvement in peacekeeping forces."

In remarks published by the newspaper LA CAPITAL in Mar del Plata, Balza said: "The possibility for a new participation by Argentine troops in peacekeeping forces is being evaluated." He added that this possibility entails "the deployment of troops."

Baidoa, which is located 200 km from Mogadishu, is at the epicenter of the wave of violence prevailing in Somalia. Clashes between followers of Mohamed Farah Aidid, United Somali Congress chairman, and Ali Mahdi Mohamed, who proclaimed himself acting president, have forced the Somali people into starvation because they do not have access to the essential food they need to survive.

### Foreign Minister Comments

*PY1012000092 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2128 GMT 9 Dec 92*

[Report by special NA correspondent in Rio de Janeiro]

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 9 December (NA)—Argentina has decided to send a contingent to Somalia as part of the UN "humanitarian forces," which, headed by the United States, have just arrived in the aforementioned African country.

This announcement was made public by Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella, who stated that it has not been decided yet whether Argentina will send troops, airplanes, physicians, or equipment. He nonetheless pointed out that regardless of what or who is sent, Armed Forces troops will be in charge of the operation.

The date for the Armed Forces troops' departure will be fixed according to the characteristics of the Argentine contingent.

Di Tella, who travelled to Rio to meet his Brazilian counterpart, Enrique Cardoso, said that no sooner had President Carlos Menem made this decision on 7 December than the Foreign Ministry and the Defense Ministry started weighing it.

Di Tella underscored the fact that they already had contacted U.S. authorities—which is responsible for the coordination of the operation in Somalia—in order to pinpoint what type of aid is needed.

The first U.S. Marine contingent landed yesterday evening in Somalia. They will guarantee food distribution and quell internecine wars among tribes.

When asked whether it is necessary to consult the Argentine Congress to send military troops to Somalia, Di Tella explained that it is not necessary "because,

definitively, circumstances are similar to those when military troops were sent to Croatia, without the need to obtain congressional authorization to do so."

Yesterday, however, President Carlos Menem said that if he decided to send troops to Somalia, these troops could only begin fighting after obtaining congressional authorization to do so.

Speaking in favor of the Argentine decision, the foreign minister said that intervention in Somalia was approved by the UN Security Council and that it had been inspired by "a dramatic humanitarian objective in which we want to participate."

Di Tella pointed out that the Argentine decision "coincides with the policy calling for active participation" in international events. He admitted, however, that "this operation is dangerous."

"This fact shows the patriotic spirit of our Armed Forces' officers and NCO's," Di Tella added.

A few hours before Di Tella officially reported on the government decision, the Foreign Ministry had released a communique reporting that Argentina "firmly supports" the UN resolution and is "ready to cooperate actively" with the United Nations.

The Foreign Ministry explained that, "to this extent," the government has been "consulting the UN Secretariat General and other interested governments" because it "regrets" seeing "continuing general disrespect for human rights in Somalia, including violence and threats against those who are legally participating in humanitarian assistance tasks."

In this regard, the Foreign Ministry also mentioned "the deliberate attacks against civilians and medical and assistance services facilities," which "have frustrated the international community's attempts to help the Somali people."

"It is the international community's duty to act decisively and effectively to establish in Somalia a climate of peace and security to ensure the equitable distribution of food and medicines that are indispensable for the survival of the people and to allow the implementation of an appropriate solution to the crisis," the Foreign Ministry added.

The UN plan for Somalia is entitled "Restore Hope," and will consist of five stages. The first will be the reestablishment of security in the African country.

The second will consist of replacing the unified command with operations seeking to maintain peace in the country.

Later on, there will be a period of national reconciliation and, finally, an agenda for an international conference will be drafted.

## Japan's Eximbank Grants $800 Million to Government

*PY0912195092 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 9 Dec 92*

[By Silvina Martinez Porta from Government House]

[Text] Argentina has managed to increase by $200 million, the credit requested from the Eximbank of Japan. This bank already has granted a $600 million credit that will serve to guarantee payments within the Brady Plan. This was announced this morning at Government House by Communications Media Secretary Raul Burzaco. He said that Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo, who has been in Tokyo since 7 December, today phoned President Carlos Menem at Olivos Residence to tell him the good news.

Early this morning, Buenos Aires time—there are 13 hours difference with Japan, Cavallo met with the Eximbank president, who told the Argentine economy minister that Japan will grant Argentina $800 million to provide the necessary guarantees of payments to the creditor commercial banks demanded by the Brady Plan signed on 6 December in Buenos Aires.

According to officials, this credit has surpassed the economic team's expectations because financial aid of only between $500 million and $600 million had been expected. We said this credit has surpassed expectations, among other things, because sources close to Domingo Cavallo said the amount necessary for the fulfillment of the Brady Plan to pay the commercial creditor banks is approximately $450 million and not higher than $600 million.

This means that the minister might receive a fresh credit of approximately $300 million that would be included in the Japanese Eximbank decision to give political and economic support to Argentine development.

We also must remember that negotiations with the Japanese Government were the last requirement to complete the guarantee of funds and part of the interest that will guarantee future payments of the new Brady bonds to our creditors.

## * CGT, Government Seek Mutual Concessions

*93SM0056A Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Oct 92 p 7*

[Report by Daniel Lupa: "Strange Transactions"]

[Text] "The 'deal'—as the mutual concessions of equal forces are commonly called in CGT [General Confederation of Labor] and Peronist circles—have produced results." This blunt statement is said to have been made by Armando Cavalieri to some of his peers in a conversation with them on the evening of 21 October. This was after the basic aspects of the agreement that was to be finalized last Thursday between the Economy and Labor

Ministries, with the implicit, although silent, acquiescence of the CGT representatives, were already known.

The CGT leadership had clashed internally in a discussion of which some aspects became almost public, when Barrionuevo and Ubaldini announced an impossible strike "for their own people." The debate had to do with the most effective method of hindering the trade-union reform efforts.

Barrionuevo, who is said to have extensive government connections—and the Labor Ministry would not be among the most distant—said he had in hand information according to which "they are going to try, by law or by decree, to effect a definitive change in the organization (CGT) before the end of the year."

**A Common Goal**

Both Cavalieri and Lescano read a literal transcription of this warning, under the shadow of the harsh charges of bribery published in a weekly periodical about a month ago. The fact that these accusations, which are nothing new, were circulated at this time seems to have aroused some suspicions.

"Are they perhaps (through this publication) trying to support the venture by Ubaldini and Barrionuevo, in an effort to force us to join with them in a common front for the pursuit of a preposterous strategy?," a leader very close to one of those charged with bribery wondered.

In reality, the "preposterous strategy" referred to was nothing but a proposal that "the opposition take only one step" toward forcing a strike, as a way of "blocking Carlos (Menem) if he should yield to the pressure from Cavallo."

The CGT leadership, on the other hand, had confidence "for the most part, in an arrangement with [Enrique] Rodriguez and [Rodolfo] Diaz, an arrangement possible there, nothing more....," since "we also have in our favor the negotiations being carried forward by Bauza."

Since the beginning of what appeared to be the danger of a split in the CGT, there has been a common denominator. "It is possible to give ground on something, almost anything, except the trade-union law, the laws governing parity, pensions, and social projects. We already have the social projects in our pocket, and now the rest remains."

This clear and lucid definition of the interests of the CGT leadership is credited to Lorenzo Miguel, the man regarded as the "great mediator," both internally (among the rival factions) and externally (between the CGT and the government).

The problem faced by the CGT for about 10 days, concerning which little or nothing has been revealed to date, involved letting the central leadership understand clearly that without the "deal"—as Cavalieri is said to have defined the process—there would be a "decree" before the end of 1992.

In a more serious note, the decree would not pertain to only a small portion of the labor contract (as finally proved to be the case, apparently to protect the Pymes [small and medium-sized enterprises]) pertaining to the legislation that established the trade-union authority itself: the trade-union law, the parity law (which endorses collective bargaining), the pension law, and recently, social projects—the issues defined by Miguel himself.

With this information in hand, the reactions to the attitude adopted by Ubaldini and Barrionuevo were not long in coming.

Someone on the top level of the regime who had maneuvered matters so as to avoid compromising the body of the legislation which guarantees trade-union authority is said to have commented as follows to Lescano in private. "We have the same goals, the same concerns. You must do what is necessary to ensure that they do not come at us from below. If there is resistance, Cavallo will go forward with the proposal. Let them negotiate and save our skins. There will be other projects which will bring us together later on."

**Risk-Free Legislation**

But basically, what has been achieved has done away with the main obstacle. There will be no legislation altering the trade-union monopoly. Nor will there be any talk for some time about the social projects. On the other hand, the government will modify the pension proposal, and where the parity law is concerned, everything will be limited to the Pyme issue.

In this way, "everything has changed so that nothing is changed," yet once again, with the imposition of the golden rule of Lampedusa, as uttered by the unforgettable Gatopardo.

In this way, the CGT, with less than a fourth of the labor spectrum affiliated with its apparatus, will continue to negotiate on behalf of three-quarters of the workers.

Thus, even though it will cease to collect trade-union dues for the first three months of a new worker's employment, the union is consolidating its de facto power over the subsequent 20 or 30 years of the new employee's working life. Or is it not?

## * Importance of Retirees' Votes Underlined

*93SM0055A Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 1 Nov 92 pp 6-8*

[Article by Maria Seoane: "The Political Weight of Retired Citizens"]

[Text] In every election, almost 10 percent of the votes are cast by retirees and pensioners. This elderly group includes more than two million individuals. Their inherent political weight is further increased because of the influence they have over their family groups. The politicians are eager to win their support, and some even

devote their careers to winning the endorsement of older citizens. In the capital city, one out of every five voters is retired. In Buenos Aires, Cordoba, and Santa Fe, one out of 10 is retired. The political cost of their critical situation led President Carlos Menem to convoke urgent cabinet meetings this week. The surveys explain the reasons for the fears of the government.

If the statistical projections are correct, about 9 percent of the registered voters, some two million pensioners and retired persons throughout the country, might cast votes adverse to the government party in the coming elections. This possibility, which President Carlos Menem perceives intuitively, has caused considerable commotion in the government offices in the past week. This is because the economic cost of counteracting the displeasure of the so-called passive sector by paying the debt officially estimated at more than $30 billion (although the associations of which the retirees are members gives the figure as $200 billion) is far from the intentions of Minister Domingo Cavallo. Turning the vote of each retired person in favor of the government party might require an expenditure, optimistically calculated, of more than $7,000 per person.

Even if these estimates are exaggerated, and it is presumed that only a half of this 9 percent would cast a penalizing vote (since the balance might choose to continue to place their confidence in the parties they have traditionally supported) the number of retired persons unhappy with the government would total a million souls throughout the country. Last week, the movements within government circles motivated by the proverbial sensitivity of the president to the need for action to offset trends adverse to his administration were contradictory, at the very least.

On 25 October, Menem suddenly called an evening meeting of the cabinet. The sole item on the agenda was an analysis of the political cost of the measures adopted that affect the passive sector (see table).

Concern increased following the veto of the clause pertaining to privatization of the YPF [Government Oil Deposits], which would fund increases in pensions and retirement funds (again reducing to the zero point the possibility of paying off the longstanding debt owed by the state to the oldest citizens) and the publicizing of Menem's own unfortunate statement to the effect that "there are pensioners who could very well be working."

At that emergency meeting, Menem ordered speedier action on the establishment of a secretariat for retirees. This body, under the direction of Minister Julio Cesar Araoz, would take over the funds of the PAMI [Comprehensive Medical Assistance Plan]—about $20 billion. This matter was a source of concern for the director of the PAMI, Matilde Menendez, and Minister Cavallo was authorized to proceed with a study of ways the treasury could mitigate the situation of the more than 750,000 elderly people in a situation of absolute poverty, by means of an emergency increase.

### The Family Nucleus

Although complete statistics are not available, making it more difficult to arrive at accurate political decisions, it is known that Argentina, along with China, is one of the developing countries where the average life span is about 73 (so that it ranks below the United States, the former USSR, Canada, Australia, and the Western European countries). Also, Argentina has one of the largest population percentages over 60 years of age—12.45 percent.

Projections of this figure, according to the United Nations, point to an increase toward the end of the millennium.

### More Than 3.5 Million Votes

**I. Percentage of all the retired persons and pensioners in the national, provincial, and municipal social security systems in relation to the total population of the country**

| Sex | Total National Population | Total Retired Population | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Men | 15,475,000 | 1,527,000 | 9.9 |
| Women | 16,765,000 | 2,490,000 | 14.8 * |
| Totals | 32,240,000 | 4,017,031 | 12.45 |
| Projection for the Year 2000 | | | 13.80** |

*The life expectancy of women is greater. **Data provided by the World Bank and the United Nations.

**Total annual budget and monthly average for each retired person in 1992**

| | |
|---|---|
| National cost | $10,400,000,000 |
| Annual cost per capita | $2,600 |
| Monthly cost per capita | $200 |
| Total estimated state debt | $30,000,000,000 |
| Debt per capita | $7,468 |

**III. Estimated percentage of retired voters out of the total (1991 voters' registry)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Total number of voters | 20,764,377 |
| Total number of retirees and pensioners | 4,017,031 |
| Absolute percentage | 19.3% |
| Relative percentage | 17.4%* |
| Total number of retired voters | 3,615,328 |

*There is an estimated 10 percent shrinkage for retired voters. With a very high traditional level of electoral participation, only 90 percent of the total would vote, since voting is optional for those over 70.

**IV. Estimated projections of the level of retirees' and pensioners' electoral influence**

| | |
|---|---|
| Percentage of total voters offsetting protests | 40%* |
| Percentage of voters who disagree | 60% |
| Projection of voters who disagree | 2,159,000 |
| Percentage of all retired voters' votes that would not be cast for the government party | 9.4 |

*In September of 1992, approximately 40 percent of all the potential voters received increases.

**V. Percentage of retirees in relation to the total population in the principal districts of the country**

| | Total Population | Total Retired Persons | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| Federal Capital | 2,960,976 | 717,074 | 24.2 |
| Buenos Aires | 12,582,321 | 1,663,980 | 13.2 |
| Cordoba | 2,764,176 | 322,148 | 11.6 |
| Santa Fe | 2,797,293 | 380,560 | 13.6 |

Although no National Electoral Office data are available, the electoral weight of the retirees in the Federal Capital, the national district in which their numerical weight is the greatest, is estimated at 20 percent.

Sources [for all tables]: Social Security Secretariat of the Ministry of Labor; Comprehensive Medical Assistance Plan (PAMI); UN report titled *Economic and Social Aspects of Population Aging in Argentina*, New York, 1991; National Population Census: National Institute of Statistics and Census; National Electoral Office

Socially and politically, this trend makes the subject of old age in general and retired persons in particular an explosive one. From the economic point of view, the cost of the social security system is very high, accounting for 50 percent of the federal joint participation funds in the case of some provinces. And from the political point of view, the dissatisfaction of a retired person may mean a change in the electoral behavior of the entire family nucleus.

Claudio Hunter Watts, the United Nations adviser on the elderly and psychological affairs, says that in the Argentine tradition, as is the case elsewhere in Latin America, the absolute majority of retired persons live with their families.

Carlos Imizcoz, the press secretary of the National Retired Persons and Pensioners Coordination Board, estimates, on an approximate basis, that only 3 percent of all elderly persons live in old-age homes, 20 percent live with their spouses, and the remaining 77 percent live with other family members.

Hunter Watts says that "retired persons are power factors within their family nuclei. It is they who have the time to listen to the radio. They take care of their grandchildren. It is they who exert the most influence when many daily decisions are made, and politics is no exception. Although not all of the elderly always react identically, they usually vote on the basis of their age interests when they feel beleaguered."

Imizcoz adds: "It is not a unified vote, because their political habits are deeply rooted, but in recent times, there has been a greater shift toward negative voting among those who were Peron supporters." And when it comes time to vote, Imizcoz says with assurance, "a retired person counts for double."

Pollsters Rosendo Fraga, of Lynch, Menendez, and Nivel, and Esteban Lijalad, of Enrique Zuleta and Equas, agree that retired persons may account for 10 or 12 percent of the votes. However, they do not feel that this group could ever cause a decisive turnabout among the voters, except in the Federal Capital, the district in which they account for a higher percentage than anywhere else in the country.

Lijalad maintains that "the old folks" are usually loyal to their political parties, although he agrees that at present, because of the continued nature of the protests and the developing awareness, they are "at a turning point." And he adds that an analysis of his study last August showed that of the 37.3 percent of those over 60 years of age who voted for the PJ [Justicialist Party] during the senatorial race in the capital, only 10.2 percent will vote for that same party when it comes to electing deputies in 1993.

Pollster Javier Otaegui, of Telemarketing, is more definitive. He believes that retirees do not count for much, if one looks at how the political system treats them, but he also thinks that the family nucleus tends to have the same opinions as the retired member. He believes that in all the districts, the retirees exert an influence proportionate to their percentage of the population. With regard to the party loyalties of the "oldsters," he comments: "One does not cease to be a radical or a Peronist because one has retired. But as the elderly today are pariahs, and, in addition, constitute the category of citizens most victimized by the deceptions of the political system, it can be presumed that they will vote more on the basis of their age interests than their historical affiliations."

### Winning Votes

When it comes to analyzing the problem of how to win the votes of the retirees—they are concentrated in more than 3,000 centers throughout the country, although the majority are not seriously politicized—the political leaders who have devoted much of their lives to this issue recognize Francisco Manrique, the inventor of the PAMI; former social security minister General Marcelo Levington; and then, General Alejandro Lanusse (between 1972 and 1973) as the pioneers.

Journalist Marcos Ordonez, who is now an adviser to Raul Burzaco, the government media secretary, who is one of the men closest to Manrique, states with assurance that the former minister who won 1.4 million votes in the 1973 elections (250,000 less than the UCR [Radical Civic Union]) "never made use of the retirees for the

purpose of proselytizing, although he was the first to realize that by doing good work at the ministry, he might then reap a political reward."

There are no definitive processed data available now from the National Electoral Office on which to base an accurate determination of the weight of the votes of citizens over 60 years of age within the total for each district in the partial 1991 elections. However, based on their experience, the leaders calculate that the time has come to pursue a policy of fewer words and more deeds where the passive sector is concerned.

Minister Araoz believes that there can be no "magic solutions," beginning with the government, but that "the restructuring of retirement income and a proper policy for this age category, with 1995 in mind, if we choose to measure it in that way, will promise us a profound change." PAMI Director Matilde Menendez hopes for the same electoral recognition "if things are done properly." She says that "the retirees are not deceived. Rather, they are quite clear about which politicians are seeking to manipulate them." Both leaders recognize that when the time comes for voting, the retirees exert an influence on their family nuclei.

Among the politicians who routinely concern themselves with the retired category of citizens are Senator Fernando de la Rua, Justicialist Deputy Carlos Ruckauf, Santiago de Estrada, and the radical legislator Leopoldo Moreau. Generally speaking, they think that retired people do not vote as a bloc. And they doubt that their influence is great enough to effect a change in a national election.

However, Santiago de Estrada, whose involvement in this issue dates from the era when he served as the last secretary for development and aid to the community during the de facto government of General Juan Carlos Ongania, in 1969, still recalls an influence felt when he was elected as a deputy by the Independent Federalist Confederation, together with Governor Eduardo Angelos, in 1989.

Ruckauf, who has been concerned with the sufferings of retired people since the days when he served as minister of labor in Isabel Peron's government, is skeptical about the possibility that his political career today is the result of his excellent work in the past. While serving as the ambassador in Rome until 1991, he obtained 48,000 pensions from the Italian government for the retired Italians living in Argentina.

**Radical Criticism**

Moreau criticizes the Justicialist movement for insensitivity on this issue. But Araoz retorts: "There is an irresponsible attitude within the radical movement, because it is easy to talk about paying utopian sums now, but at the proper time, no effort was made to slow the squandering of the pensioners' funds, and the problem was not resolved."

De la Rua, the author of the law giving pension rights to widows, as well as the proposal for the establishment of a secretariat for retirees that the government is now promoting, has had a program designed especially for retirees on Radio America every Sunday morning for the past four years. Based on his experience, he believes that "Ruckauf never attempted to engage in petty politics where retired persons are concerned," and that Estrada "made a mistake" when he attempted "to fly high" and to seek gubernatorial office.

He does indeed believe that pensioners develop bonds "of solidarity with those who show concern for them, a factor that may have an electoral correlation. In my case, their support of my candidacy has been great." It is a known fact that the percentage of voters over 65 years of age in the last senatorial elections in the Buenos Aires district was extremely high.

The skepticism of the leaders CLARIN consulted about any possible electoral upset the retirees might cause in 1993 is not commensurate, however, with the level of the government's fears, and, more particularly, President Menem's intuition. Are there secret government surveys indicating that the government should begin to concern itself with a possible revolt at the polls?

For the time being, the recent telephone survey of 949 persons carried out by Javier Otaegui on 21 September in the Federal Capital and Greater Buenos Aires suggests that the government's fears are not without foundation. To the question "Do you think you are better off or worse off than before?" 100 percent of the retired persons in the group—unlike other citizens, grouped by profession—answered that their present situation is worse.

For the first time in a survey of this kind, there was not a single response constituting an exception.

**[Box, p 7] The Government's Difficulties [by Nancy Pazos]**

"You can say anything you want, but there are government employees who are not doing anything, even to control the national chain...." This statement was made by Domingo Cavallo at the unusual cabinet meeting held at midnight last Monday, where it echoed in the ears of an audience that extended beyond Raul Burzaco, the official in charge of the sector as secretary for the mass media.

The statement by the minister of economy was designed to encourage a general "mea culpa" on the part of the participants, including the apathetic and the angry, at this extraordinary meeting. In one way or another, all of them were supposed to assume the alleged political cost of a failure of the chain of command. The order to hold up Cavallo's message announcing the refusal to pay the debt owed retired persons over 85 years of age was never carried out, and so the blatant message was broadcast to millions of future voters.

The story of the veto had begun very early on that same Monday. Cavallo was the first visitor to arrive at the residence in Olivos. Some of the numbers being bandied about sufficed to convince the president that it was impossible to pay the debt to the elderly. The second veto going against the interests of retired persons in less than 15 days was already under way. "Did they explain to Carlos all that this would mean?" Eduardo Duhalde was still climbing out of the "Menemovil" (which he is using for his tour of the interior of the province) when he asked his interlocutors—Minister Jose Luis Manzano and the secretary general of the presidency, Eduardo Bauza—his first question.

The meeting convoked on that hot Monday night at Government House for the specific purpose of analyzing the political effects of the veto failed to elicit the desired responses. "This will be impossible, if all of the media are going to take aim at us," the governor of Buenos Aires bellowed, demonstrating yet once again that La Plata is much closer to the Casa Rosada than the majority of the citizens of Buenos Aires believe.

"What is needed is to take a step back, or at least to pursue a more amiable discourse with 'Mingo,'" they finally agreed, after the group had been joined by the head of the SIDE [Secretary for State Intelligence] Hugo Anzorreguy, and two of Manzano's advisers acting in their capacity as "creative propagandists."

The search for professional assistance was successful. The officials were not discussing whether or not it was a good thing to veto payment of the debt to the retired persons (or whether there was a way of obtaining the necessary money), but rather what should be done to minimize the political cost, and the damage to the public image of the government, as much as possible.

"Well, let them do whatever they want after we have talked," Cavallo finally said over the telephone, after the group had persuaded him to hold up the message the minister had just recorded.

Then the unfortunate telephone conversations ensued, one after the other. While communication had been established with the ATC [Argentina Televisora Color] to order that the television message be held up (by then Burzaco had already been summoned), Radio Nacional put it on the air. This explains the time difference between the radio message broadcast at 2030, and that telecast at 2100.

This irreparable disparity served to activate the imaginations of the government officials and professional people. "We must show the people that we are concerned," they concluded. The task of summarizing President Menem's message was entrusted to Bauza. "Perhaps it would be a good move if you were to ask everyone to come to Olivos at the earliest possible time," the secretary suggested.

But Menem countered with a bolder idea. "No, tell them all to come to Alvear at 1200." This time the telephone calls were synchronized. Within a few minutes, all of the ministers had been advised, as had, obviously, each of the news agencies.

**Where Will Votes Go?**

Julio Cesar Araoz says, "I do not believe that they define the vote in any electoral district or that they will vote as a bloc."

"I believe that the pensioner votes for the man he trusts. There are relationships involving confidence that may prove to have an electoral correlation." This is the opinion of Fernando de la Rua.

According to Matilde Menendez, "The pensioner usually votes on the basis of party loyalties."

Carlos Ruckauf says "I am not really convinced that retired persons vote for me because I concern myself with their problems. There is no automatic transfer of votes."

"I do not believe that the retirees vote as a bloc because of their retired status," states Leopoldo Moreau.

According to Santiago de Estrada, "The retirees have not voted generally as a bloc. There is no district in which they define an election."

## Brazil

### Collor's Attorneys Seek Additional Time, Reports

*PY0812103492 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 7 Dec 92*

[Text] The final document prepared by Collor's defense was presented today at the Senate. The defense lawyers had 48 hours to present the document, in addition to Saturday and Sunday, but they waited until the last minute to do so.

In a 16-page document, the lawyers contend that the suspended president did not commit malfeasance in office and offered five witnesses who can testify in favor of the suspended president. They are: Romeu Tuma, former Federal Police director; Luiz Fernando Wellisch, former national financial secretary; Francisco Gros, former Central Bank president; Thales Ramalho, a member of the Council of the Republic; and Tito Livio Gomide, the expert who verified the loan contract in Uruguay.

To prove that Collor is innocent, his lawyers are asking for two expert reports: One, an engineering report to estimate the cost of the remodeling work at Casa da Dinda from April 1989 to June 1992; and another one, an accounting report, to investigate the bills of Brasil's Garden related to the remodeling of the Casa da Dina. The lawyers also want more time. They want to be able to present new documents up until three days before the day of the trial. They went so far as to promise to produce the original contract on the Uruguay operation.

[Begin attorney Jose Guilherme Vilela recording] We want more time to produce more evidence, because we believe that more evidence is needed to come up with a better decision in this case. [end recording]

Chief Justice Sidney Sanches today promised that he will decide tomorrow if he will agree to the petition from Collor's lawyers, and if he does, this would delay Collor's trial. Today he received the files on the case.

Had it not been for the petition filed by his attorneys, Collor would have been notified today of the trial, but that also was postponed until tomorrow.

[Begin Sanches recording] I will examine first if those pieces of evidence are admissible. Later, I will set the date for the trial and notify the president. [end recording]

In the meantime, the STF [Federal Supreme Court] continues to implement proceedings in connection with the petition for an injunction filed by Collor's defense. Late this afternoon, the asisstant attorney general filed an opinion which was in no way favorable to Collor's defense. In a 21-page opinion, the assistant attorney general concludes that Collor's rights to a defense have not been curtailed, all the senators can vote at the impeachment trial, and the defense arguments are not acceptable. Thus, the assistant attorney general requests of the STF that the petition for an injunction be turned down.

### Request Denied, Trial Date Set

*PY0912010192 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 8 Dec 92*

[Report by Antonio Carlos Silva from Congress]

[Text] The defense lawyers' request, which could have delayed supsended President Fernando Collor's trial, has been denied.

Justice Sydney Sanches, president of the Federal Supreme Court [STF] and thus a major influence in the impeachment process, did not comply with the request made by Collor's lawyers Jose Guilherme Villela and Evaristo de Moraes Filho. The lawyers requested an expert's appraisal of the remodeling work done at Casa da Dinda and an audit of Brazil's Garden company accounts to check on the real value of the work it completed at Casa da Dinda.

Justice Sanches decided that at the current stage of the process, there can be no more appraisals.

[Begin Sanches recording] I think that such an appraisal can only be conducted under the supervision of the special commission, i.e., during the extensive discovery period phase. After this phase ends and the special commission report is approved by the Congress plenum, the process enters the formal charges and rebuttal phase. At this stage, defense and prosecution can only request the presence of the witnesses and not an expert's appraisal. What happened is that only now is the defense requesting that appraisal. [end recording]

After Sanches' decision, the impeachment process schedule continues to be the same, and the date for Collor's trial has been set by Justice Sanches on 22 December.

Sanches sent a note with the trial date to suspended President Collor, Collor's lawyers, and the witnesses. Villela admits that he may again appeal to the STF before 16 December. If he does so, Collor's trial may have to be postponed.

### Collor Expects Acquittal by Senate on 22 Dec

*PY0912211092 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1652 GMT 9 Dec 92*

[Text] Brasilia, 9 Dec (EFE)—Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello, who has been temporarily suspended from office, believes that, despite the fact that his right to defense is being curtailed, he will be acquitted by the Senate on 22 December in the impeachment process brought against him.

In a radio interview, Collor—who is now 43—said: "In an impartial trial, the Senate will give its verdict and will vote for my acquittal." He again reiterated that he is innocent of the charges of corruption that are about to cause him to be impeached from office.

Collor harshly criticized senators and the chief justice of the Supreme Court, Sidney Sanches, for not having given him enough time to rebut the charges.

Commenting on a procedural ruling by Sanches and a special Senate committee, Collor—who still is president of Brazil—charged that "nothing has been done on the basis of evidence, my allegations, or my right to defense, which has been denied."

Collor stated that he will submit to the verdict of the 81 senators and reiterated that he will not tender his resignation with a view to precluding his conviction, which not only would definitively remove him from office, but also would disqualify him from holding any public office until the beginning of the 21st century.

Collor said: "I cannot quit fighting. I am not going to resign from an office to which I was elected by 21 million Brazilians during the first round and by 35 million Brazilians in the runoff election."

The suspended president is facing at least 42 counts of political, electoral, and common crimes. The trial for common crimes has been temporarily suspended. He reaffirmed that he is the victim of a plot concocted by business and union leaders.

### Report Pours 'Cold Water' on Collor's Hopes

*PY2911220292 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 28 Nov 92 p 4*

[All quotation marks as published]

[Text] Special committee sponsor Antonio Mariz (PMDB-PB) [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party-Pernambuco State] has poured cold water on the suspended president's hopes of returning to Planalto Palace. In his report, Mariz dismantled the so-called "Uruguay Operation," demonstrated the contradictions existing in the depositions of the people involved in the PC [Paulo Cesar Farias] scheme, and contested reports that [Fernando] Collor's personal expenses were financed with surpluses from his [presidential] campaign. Mariz stresses that the suspended president used his post to fill his pockets, participated in the PC scheme, and concocted a plot against public credibility by presenting fancy reports on the origin of the funds that increased his personal assets.

The following are the Mariz report's main points:

1. The "Uruguay Operation" was a farce. "Although there might be appropriate documents supporting it, it would be difficult to believe in the loan story (...) When it can be seen that there is not a single probative element capable of confirming the loan story and that all instrumental evidence points in a different direction, it becomes certain that everything was just a useless attempt to justify the unjustifiable."

2. Collor filled his pockets and dishonored his post. "It was amply demonstrated (...) that the defendant received large and unjustified asset gains, all of them from hidden and undeclared sources (...) Deliberately failed to take action when he was informed of the illegal activities involving the person responsible for supplying the large amount of funds with which he filled his pockets. The defendant also failed to inform the tax office of his income and increased assets (...) The defendant acted (...) in a dishonorable way while discharging his duties (...)"

3. Collor participated in the PC scheme. "In fact, one of the modus operandi of the so-called PC scheme involved securing contributions from companies and disguising them, for accounting and tax purposes, as payments for services allegedly rendered to those companies. Since the links between Paulo Cesar Farias and the president of the Republic were well known, the companies that were asked to contribute to the PC scheme did so fearing the implementation of reprisals in case of refusal (...). Considering all the events that occurred during the past few months, the suspended president cannot express any surprise (...)"

4. The source of the funds was illegal. "A curious and singular feature of the defense presented is the fact that the defendant refuses to supply the specific amounts reportedly credited to his accounts, as well as the respective periods and the names of the depositors. The defendant, at all times, generalizes, thus seeking to avoid the reality of numbers and, especially, the identities of the depositors (...) Moreover, (...) according to the TSE [Superior Electoral Court], the accounts balance of the party coalition led by the PRN [National Reconstruction Party] that was presented by the end of the elections totalled just 42,382.93 cruzeiros."

5. Collor plotted against public credibility. "Definitely, the entire investigating process (...) does not mention a 'political interests plot' as the defendant wants. If there was any plot, it was concocted against public credibility, trying to delude it with fancy interpretations of unexplainable facts and circumstances."

## Further on Mikhail Gorbachev's Visit

### Visits Sao Paulo

*PY0912011092 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 8 Dec 92*

[Excerpts] Mikhail Gorbachev, the former president of the former USSR, spent all day today in Sao Paulo. [passage omitted]

Gorbachev made an official call on the Sao Paulo state government palace and then had lunch with businessmen. After lunch, Gorbachev gave a lecture which the press was not allowed to record. He touched on a subject that is at the center of the people's concern in Russia and Brazil: the role of the state in a modern democracy.

Gorbachev drew a comparison between Brazil and Russia. He said these two countries are large and have good potential for development, but he noted that structural reforms are needed to streamline the state and to assign it the role of simple regulator of the economy.

### Departs For Mexico

*PY1012001692 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 9 Dec 92*

[Text] Mikhail Gorbachev, former president of the defunct USSR, today made a quick visit to Brasilia on the last day of his visit to Brazil.

On his arrival at the Brasilia air base, Gorbachev was welcomed only by the air base commander. His visit to Planalto Palace was canceled because President Itamar Franco and most of his ministers already had left for Juiz de Fora, Minas Gerais State, to attend the funeral of Franco's mother.

Gorbachev went straight to Itamaraty Palace. Waiting for him outside were demonstrators who objected to his visit.

At a lunch with politicians, Gorbachev said Brazil has taken a step forward with the impeachment process.

Commenting on problems, he drew a comparison between Brazil and Russia and advocated national understanding.

Although a visit to Congress already was excluded from his agenda, Gorbachev insisted on visiting the Brazilian Congress. Upon his arrival in Congress, Gorbachev was escorted to the Chamber of Deputies plenary room, where the session was interrupted for the deputies to pay an impromptu tribute to Gorbachev. The deputies gave him a standing ovation.

In the Senate plenary room, Gorbachev greeted every senator and left the building with a copy of the Brazilian Constitution in his hands.

Gorbachev ended his four-day visit to Brazil here in Brasilia. Late this afternoon, Gorbachev and Raisa left for Mexico.

### Franco Discusses Privatization, Financial Reform

*PY0412202492 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 3 Dec 92 p 24*

[Article by Monica Gugliano]

[Text] Buenos Aires—During his last day in the Argentine capital after participating in a Rio Group summit, President Itamar Franco relaxed next to Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso, who advised him throughout the meeting, and had a long conference with Brazilian journalists. During the meeting Franco said he will soon present Congress a proposal for a broad reform of the financial system.

The president assured journalists that the privatization program will continue but made clear his unhappiness with the use of "rotten currencies" to pay for public companies. Franco also reiterated his decision to establish a social utility rates policy to alleviate the burden on the poorest. Franco said he was not worried about the consequences of this decision on the agreement with the IMF.

"I will never allow an agreement to hurt the Brazilian people," the president emphasized.

Franco denied that [Finance Minister Gustavo] Krause and [Planning Minister Paulo] Haddad wanted to resign but added that anyone who wants to leave is free to do so:

"Ministers do not need a reporter if they want to resign. All they have to do is find me and tell me they are dissatisfied," Franco said.

Franco put aside the security system mounted by the Argentine Government and asked Brazilian Ambassador to Buenos Aires Marcos Azambuja to buy flowers to give reporters, but Azambuja failed to do so because the flower seller had left his shop. Then, before entering the embassy premises, Franco posed for a picture at Carlos Pellegrini Square.

### Government Changes Privatization Program

*PY0312154692 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 30 Nov 92 p 16*

[Article by George Vidor]

[Text] The document containing changes in the privatization program approved by Interim President Itamar Franco on 27 November includes a proposal by the BNDES [National Bank for Economic and Social Development] seeking a revision of the current legislation to eliminate ambiguities and omissions that created obstacles in the program. These obstacles include the controversy over the minimum price for Ultrafertil and other companies to be privatized. The commission in charge of the program needs more power. Regulations were also requested in order for the BNDES to defend itself better in judicial actions "which in many cases are of a dilatory nature."

This is how the privatization program will facilitate the process that was begun by suspended President Fernando Collor. The program is being studied by the Office of the Consultant General of the Republic to verify if the changes contravene current laws. What needs to be voted in Congress is the increased participation of foreign capital in the auctions which, according to the proposed changes, can be up to 100 percent.

Full payment in cruzeiros will not be required in the sale of state companies thus the option for the so-called privatization currency (debt notes of the federal government) is maintained. In the auctions of the most attractive companies cash payments of 15 to 30 percent of the sale value must be made. The money collected from the auctions will be used by the government through the BNDES "for imparting technology and production improvement with emphasis on training."

The potential buyers of state companies must purchase in cruzeiros Investment Certificates which will be issued by the National Treasury. Some privatizations must be made through mergers, incorporations, or capital raising operations but the main sale instrument continues to be the auctions. The government will propose to Congress a change in the law so that foreign capital can purchase 100 percent of the companies to be privatized (currently foreign investors are restricted to 40 percent of the companies voting stock). The privatization will include infrastructure companies and concessionaires of public service (producers and distributors of electricity; railroad and waterway services; sea ports, river ports, and lake ports; and airports).

Here are the main changes approved by the interim president for the National Privatization Program [PND]:

1. Creation of the Investment Certificate which will guarantee the entry of cruzeiros into the Treasury: it will be mandatory to use of these resources for technological and labor training.

2. The potential buyers of state companies must purchase Investment Certificates. If these certificates are not used for the purchase of shares in the companies they may be used as of their maturity date to pay the federal taxes of the company that owns the certificates or of third parties.

3. Measures will be implemented to make the current 40 percent ceiling on foreign companies' purchase of local company voting stocks more flexible based on the size and economic or industrial importance of the firm to be privatized. The PND board of directors will be empowered to establish new limits.

4. Individuals will be permitted to use funds drawn from social funds (FGTS/PIS) [Unemployment Compensation Fund/Social Integration Program] to purchase shares of companies on sale through the privatization program.

5. The privatization of public utility companies will be allowed following a report by the industries concerned, the PND, and consultants contracted by the respective ministries. The measure will involve service companies; electric energy installation; railway and river transportation; sea, river, and lake ports; and port infrastructure.

6. The PND board of directors will be restructured to conform to the new reorganization of the federal administration and to ensure that it continues without interruptions.

7. Companies privatization will in some cases be accomplished through mergers or capital raising operations. In the latter case the state company will waive its right to purchase shares. The company capital may also be increased through incorporations or mergers. Public auctions, however, will continue to be the basic privatization instrument.

8. Payments in cruzeiros will not be a condition for the privatizations of all state companies.

9. The PND board of directors are responsible for establishing minimum prices and other sale conditions.

## Franco Wants Action To Pass Fiscal Amendment

*PY0912015892 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 8 Dec 92*

[Excerpts] Concerned about the delay in getting Congress to vote on the fiscal amendment bill, President Itamar Franco today met at Planalto Palace with his 13 cabinet ministers, with some congressmen, and with the government leaders at the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate.

Franco urged the political ministers to work in Congress to expedite the vote on the fiscal amendment bill and to obtain its approval. He said he will not agree to negotiating appointments of second level officials in the government in exchange for the approval of the bill. He stated, however, that governability is dependent upon the fiscal reform. [passage omitted]

Franco also discussed the fiscal amendment bill with Deputy Benito Gama, who wrote a report on the bill that will be voted on tomorrow at the Chamber of Deputies. Gama reassured the president by stating that the government already has enough votes among the deputies to get the bill passed. [passage omitted]

Congress will extend its sessions until Christmas eve. Today, bloc leaders met to seek an agreement to lay down voting procedures. Tomorrow, the Committee on Fiscal Reform will seek to reduce controversial topics of the fiscal amendment bill.

Bloc leaders unanimously endorsed this tactic. The committee intends to approve tomorrow a major portion of the fiscal amendment bill. It is their objective to make the bill reach the plenary vote at the Chamber of Deputies as soon as possible and with as few controversial issues as possible. [passage omitted]

Negotiations concerning the vote on the fiscal amendment bill also began today at the Senate. The government's strategy is to keep the senators informed at all times on the votes at the Chamber of Deputies and on the possible changes to the original proposal.

The government leader in the Senate and Justice Minister Mauricio Correa, who are participating in these talks, today went together to Congress. They believe that the fiscal amendment bill could be approved this year if the senators are kept adequately informed.

[Begin Correa recording] If the Chamber of Deputies vote on the bill, let us say 10 days from now, the Senate will have to vote on it immediately. Yet, senators must already be adequately informed on what they will be voting on. [end recording]

## Franco Admits Differences With Economic Team

*PY2911184092 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Nov 92 p 7*

[Article by Joao Bosco Rabello]

[Excerpt] Interim President Itamar Franco will carry out his first cabinet reshuffle only after he is confirmed in his post following Fernando Collor's final separation. He did, however, issue a warning intended for the current, recently appointed, ministers: Whoever is dissatisfied may leave earlier. "The president is the one who cannot leave," Itamar stated during an informal talk with journalists in Brasilia on the evening of 26 November.

Itamar Franco admitted that there are differences of opinion between him and members of his team, especially in the economic area, and without mentioning any names he promised to continue questioning the authors of measures that are being presented as routine. The interim president promised that he will not accept

"dishes served on a platter" and will always seek technical advice to offer government experts more socially palatable options. "Modernity has a social meaning," he said to justify his strict control over each and every member of his administration.

Franco again warned his cabinet by defining as natural and routine the episode of the night before when he woke up five ministers in the wee hours of the morning seeking an explanation for the increase in the price of fuels, which he found out about by watching a television newscast. "I will wake them again," he said with the incredulous Justice Minister Mauricio Correa standing next to him. Correa was one of the president's victims who admitted Franco had caught him in pajamas. Franco stated that he will closely follow price increases but this does not imply absolute price control.

The president does not formally admit that there will be a cabinet reshuffle for purely ethical reasons. Informally, however, he agrees that Collor's return is highly unlikely and hints that in this context there is bound to be a new cabinet. "For the time being I prefer to wait because I am still signing as interim president," he says cautiously. He also complained: "Nothing can be worse than governing with the other guy's picture hanging on the wall," meaning Collor's picture that still adorns offices at the various ministries.

The possibility of a cabinet reshuffle is further strengthened by Franco's reference to the semiparliamentary system of government. He stated: "We will not have an imperial government but an open administration in which everyone will share the responsibility." He added: "Everyone is responsible for making it possible to govern the country, not to govern Itamar." He reiterated that Collor's overdose of marketing techniques justifies his demand for responsible participation. [passage omitted]

### Economic Program Views State Companies' Debts

*PY2711232092 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 25 Nov 92 p 25*

[Text] Brasilia—The public sector's overall debt has been evaluated within the government's short-term program as the basic cause of the imbalance within the economy. The debts of state enterprises merit a chapter of their own in the document that has been handed to President Itamar Franco. Between their internal and external debts, state enterprises owe $93.3 billion. Of this total, $16 billion already has expired and has not been paid. The document the economic team submitted to Franco does not indicate how the problem of the state enterprises' debts will be resolved. However, it does point out that in order to put these enterprises on their feet, they need to implement new productivity guidelines.

In taxes and contributions, the state enterprises alone owe $8.7 billion, a revealing detail that it is not only private enterprises that do not pay taxes. The state enterprises' debts have reached such a point that between them the debits amount to $15 billion. A debt of some $4 billion that Eletrobras [Brazilian Electric Power Company Inc.] owes Itaipu Binational Enterprise is included in this amount. The document highlights the fact that the larger part of this debt within the state system is between electricity enterprises. In many cases, the state concessionaires do not pay Eletrobras, which in turn does not pay Itaipu.

Eletrobras has the highest debt, which amounts to $40 billion between debts to foreign banks and internal commitments. The short-term program highlights the fact that among the state companies only Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] and Vale do Rio Doce are of no concern because they are in a position to honor their commitments without difficulty.

### Lack of Agreement With IMF Results in Loan Loss

*PY0912234092 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 9 Dec 92*

[Excerpt] The Federal Railway Network has failed to receive a $400 million loan from the Japanese Government because Brazil and the IMF have not come to an agreement over renegotiating the foreign debt. This information was disclosed by Transportation Minister Alberto Goldman, who appeared before Congress today to explain the reasons for suspending the privatization auction of ENASA [Amazon Shipping Company, Inc.].

Minister Goldman explained why he had suspended ENASA's auction to the member legislators of the Chamber of Deputies Transportation Committee. According to Goldman, the auction scheduled for today was suspended due to information that ENASA assets were evaluated at only 10 percent of their real value by the Para Labor Court. For example, a ship worth 96 billion cruzeiros was evaluated at only 2 billion cruzeiros. [passage omitted]

### Army Minister Upholds Creation of Defense Ministry

*PY1012003292 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 9 Dec 92*

[Text] Today in Congress, Army Minister Zenildo Zoroastro de Lucena upheld the need to create a defense ministry as a means to improve the administration, planning, and use of the Armed Forces.

In the Army minister's opinion, the creation of a defense ministry is a matter of time that will occur as a natural result of the three forces' integration. Minister Lucena proposed the creation of a high-ranking inter-ministry work committee to look into the issue.

Minister Zoroastro de Lucena, during a 90-minute address today at a public session organized by the Chamber of Deputies National Defense Committee to discuss the creation of the defense ministry, said its creation is necessary to safeguard peace. He noted that in

a country like Brazil, with a vast territory, it is necessary to develop and unify forces.

The Army minister added that he was pleased to know that most of those committee members present supported his idea of creating a single national defense organization.

### Communists' Rise to Government Levels Noted

*PY2811142892 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Nov 92 p 7*

[Text] Communists and former members of the PCB [Brazilian Communist Party], now called PPS (People's Socialist Party), will finally reach government levels in Brazil. Traditional Communists, such as Federal Deputy Roberto Freire (PPS) and Alberto Goldman (PMDB) [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party]; journalist Rodolfo Konder; and State Deputy Sergio Grando [PPS] from Santa Catarina, changed their ideological conceptions and accompanied—sometimes even anticipated—the changes in Eastern Europe and today occupy important positions.

Today, Freire is the leader of Itamar Franco's government in Congress; Goldman is the transport minister of the same government; Grando was elected Florianopolis prefect; and Konder will be municipal culture secretary in Paulo Maluf's government [at Sao Paulo City Hall].

An historical Communist, Roberto Freire says he feels at ease in his new position. "I am a socialist and the leader of a democratic government. The change was not too radical for me because I never was a demagogue or an irresponsible oppositionist," Freire says minutes after talking on the phone to convene a meeting with [former President Ernesto] Geisel's Planning Minister Joao Paulo dos Reis Velloso. He receives deputies from all parties at his office at the Chamber of Deputies, but says he cannot understand why he is never visited by individuals lobbying for multinational companies.

"Things here turned the opposite way. Those who come to lobby belong to unions, public employee associations, estate companies," Freire says. The only thing he does not accept is the control of Communists, or former Communists, who today approach the government. The rule includes even those who today support Maluf, such as Rodolfo Konder. "They will continue to be as democratic as ever. They will be very helpful to Maluf who will not be able to implement a truculent government. Otherwise, they will leave him, I am sure."

Despite these remarks, Freire does not support the participation of former comrades in a Maluf government "because they are not corect when thinking that to defend modern proposals they must move to the other side."

Rodolfo Konder says that he thinks Communists are pioneers at changing their way of thinking, for which they are criticized. "The Cold War ended, but the old Brazilian left does not understand that yet," retorts Maluf's future culture secretary. In his opinion, ideologies based on the class struggle have come to an end. "However, we need courage to accept that. Perhaps we Communists received more attention because we always took positions in the political struggle," Konder explains. He says he is currently committed to fight for issues such as freedom, human rights, and the ecology. "These are modern issues representing a new political alignment."

Sergio Grando, who is also a militant of the extinct PCB since his student days and the only PPS mayor to be elected in a capital city, believes that "one is a revolutionary only if he is a realist." He has stated that he has not renounced his socialist principles. "The productive system, the street kids, technological development, society's political advances are realities." Grando has stated that Communists have changed, but Brazilian politics have also changed. He believes, however, that Konder's participation in Maluf's government could have been an exaggeration. With everything taken into account, he has said that he democratically respects the position of his former comrade in arms. "I do not agree with Maluf's opinions, and I will never become a member of his team, but he was acting intelligently when he named Konder."

### Completion of Angra-2 Nuclear Power Plant Planned

*PY2811011092 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 25 Nov 92 p 21*

[From the "Economic Perspective" column]

[Text] Angra-2 [nuclear power plant] will be constructed anyway. It will cost the government a bargain $1.3 billion.

The decision was made during a meeting in which, in addition to the economic area ministers and Eletrobras [Brazilian Electric Power Company, Inc.] President Eliseu Resende, the Armed Forces General Staff (EMFA) chief was present. They presented four proposals to President Itamar Franco: Leave the project as it is now, that is, with the government spending $100 million per year maintaining the project site and equipment at the port of Rotterdam; complete the Angra-2 and Angra-3 [nuclear] power plants; scrap the two power plants, selling the purchased equipment; or complete Angra-2 and scrap Angra-3. The last alternative, which should be announced soon, was chosen.

According to one of the participants, the EMFA chief was invited to attend the meeting because the power plant's security is a military affair.

## Chile

### United Nations Requests Troops for Somalia

*PY0912182092 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1710 GMT 9 Dec 92*

[Text] Santiago, 9 Dec (EFE)—Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma disclosed today that the United Nations has asked the government to send Chilean soldiers to join the international force that will participate in Operation Restore Hope in Somalia.

Silva Cimma told reporters that the United Nations asked specifically for Chilean Army soldiers to join the international force which is headed by a contingent of U.S. Marines that began to arrive in Somalia today.

Operation Restore Hope seeks to guarantee that the international aid to fight starvation in Somalia gets to the population and is not stolen by the armed gangs or guerrilla groups struggling for power in that country.

The chaotic situation has been preventing the aid from getting to its destination. According to the United Nations 300,000 Somalians have already died of hunger this year and 2 million may follow the same fate.

Silva Cimma said he will study the UN request with President Patricio Aylwin, who will make a decision this week.

The Chilean Armed Forces have for the last two years participated with troops of the UN peace keeping forces on the border between Iraq and Kuwait, and in Cambodia where there is currently a Chilean Marine detachment.

Members of the Chilean Carabineros militarized police are part of the peace keeping force in El Salvador where last week a Chilean noncommissioned officer drown while trying to save a woman.

## Colombia

### Foreign Minister Discusses Drug Trafficking

*PY0912212092 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0151 GMT 9 Dec 92*

[Studio interview with Colombian Foreign Minister Nohemi Sanin de Rubio, who arrived in Asuncion on 6 December, by anchorman Benjamin Fernandez Bogado on his regular Tuesday "En Detalles" program—live or recorded]

[Text] [Fernandez Bogado] Madam Foreign Minister, it is a pleasure to have you here. Welcome to this program and good evening.

[Sanin] Good evening. I would like to thank you for the opportunity you are giving me to speak on behalf of my country. The news media often focuses more on bad news and very little is said about Colombia's struggle to improve its economy or about Colombia's geographical beauty. Thank you again for this opportunity.

[Fernandez Bogado] Foreign Minister, when Colombia is mentioned in the world abroad as a synonym for drug trafficking and violence, how do you feel?

[Sanin] I feel that there is much ignorance about my country and this is why such statements are made. Colombia has drug trafficking problems, like any other country in the world. But Colombia is the great victim because it is the only country in the world that has decided to wage a war against drug trafficking, to end tolerance, and to fight against crimes. Here I have a report, for instance, which says that none of the drugs are produced in Colombia. We have lost our best men. We have lost many judges and prosecutors, but we keep fighting. Fortunately, we are achieving more cooperation in this area. But this is a problem emerging primarily from consumer countries that allow investments by drug traffickers in their economies. But we are willing to continue this war and to end this problem, at least in Colombia.

[Fernandez Bogado] And what about Colombian relations with the United States? They have not been very normal, and I would say that they have been traumatic for Colombia. Do you, Foreign Minister, believe that the United States, as a government, is unjust in the manner in which it views the drug trafficking problem, holding Colombia responsible for this entire problem and disregarding its responsibility within its territory?

[Sanin] Today, we have the best of relations with full cooperation. We belong to the San Antonio summit, where the Andean countries, Mexico, and Colombia work together in the antidrug campaign. Today they admit that drug consumption is a very important part of the problem, but unfortunately its banks also are laundering drug money. We are working on this. We are practically partners in many aspects but especially in the struggle against drug trafficking. Our current relations are that of mutual respect and cooperation. And so I would say we are experiencing an excellent moment of relations between the United States and Colombia.

[Fernandez Bogado] The U.S. argument is that the amount of money handled by drug traffickers and that remains in U.S. banks, and which generate other investments, is very small compared with the entire economy, but that in Latin America this amount is too important for a poor economy. Is this also true in Colombia, where the government, the nation, is some sort of slave to the drug?

[Sanin] We have conducted some very serious studies on the influence of drug money in Colombia. We are not interested in a single penny of that money. The Colombian economy is so strong that the percentage that affects our economy hardly reaches 1 or 1.5 percent. We do not need that money, and we do not want it. It is appropriate to note that Colombia has the most consolidated economy in Latin America. It has had an average growth

in its gross domestic product of more than 4.5 percent over the past 15 years. It is the only country in Latin America where workers' real salaries have been increasing year after year, and since the 1980's we have had no problem with our foreign debt. We have paid it regularly, and we have had no problem with inflation. Thus, our economy is sound and dynamic. I can say that inside each Colombian worker there is a businessman. He does not need those resources nor are they important for him. Those resources remain in the banks of foreign countries.

[Fernandez Bogado] Foreign Minister, was President Gaviria naive in accepting Pablo Escobar Gaviria's conditions when he decided to surrender?

[Sanin] We have had a constitutional reform. We have fully reformed our judicial system and part of this reform includes a policy we call a policy of submission to the courts. Through this policy, drug traffickers who confess their crimes receive a reduced sentence.

This policy has been successful; it is successful because many drug traffickers are under process; they are behind bars. But there has been failures, but not because of the policy, which has worked, but because of our penitentiary system. We made mistakes. We failed when he was going to be transferred from one jail to another to prevent him from continuing to work for drug trafficking, and he escaped from us.

We hope to either capture him or that he surrenders to subject himself to our policy. Many countries around the world have that policy by which as long as the drug trafficker confesses, as long as he surrenders, he gets a lighter sentence. But there are many other drug traffickers who are being processed in accordance with the law and this policy.

[Fernandez Bogado] According to released pictures, Pablo Escobar Gaviria was practically living in a penthouse of a five-star hotel. Why did that happened?

[Sanin] Because, unfortunately, he was able to influence the penitentiary officials who belonged to the municipality where he had great influence, where he was greatly accepted because he seemed to them like a philanthropist because he helped them, gave them housing. This is why he was able to get the jail officials involved in a complicity to get all kinds of privileges. But even if all inmates get those privileges, the great punishment is the lack of freedom, and what society wants is to prevent these criminals from continuing to commit crimes, and to protect the community from the threat of crimes. There were certainly abuses and problems, and we admit recognizing that they had those luxuries that are not the general rule for anyone in Colombia, but we also did not know him, although other officials did.

[Fernandez Bogado] There has been a great evolution in politics in Latin America, especially the evolution toward democracy. Then the situation in Peru and Venezuela appeared; there is talk of corruption. Do you believe that corruption with all its implications is becoming the main enemy of democracy?

[Sanin] We believe that to solve problems, more democracy should be offered. There have been more problems of corruption when democracy is in trouble, when there is a dictatorship. Therefore, we cannot mistake democracy for corruption, or mistake poverty for democracy. Democracy is what gives us the best tools to struggle against corruption and poverty.

I believe the democracy we Latin Americans have most enjoyed has been the Paraguayan democracy. We did suffer through the process, although we respected the internal process of each country due to the self-determination of people, which is a basic principle. But this process, all the freedom, all the guarantees prevailing in Paraguay are very important, are very dear to Latin America. During the Rio Group summit, Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez said farewell to his colleagues saying that he would not be present at the next summit because of the electoral process to take place I believe next August, when elections will be held.

[Fernandez Bogado] The elections will be held next May.

[Sanin] Yes, next May. The president was given a great homage for his contribution to Latin American democracy because any democratic process in any of the countries deserves our support, our admiration and solidarity. We were concerned about the events in Venezuela. We believe that Venezuelan democracy came out strengthened from the recent event. The problems in Haiti are serious and no progress has been made to solve them. The OAS has not been able to do much. We are optimistic about the process for a return to democracy in Peru.

[Fernandez Bogado] Will the arrival of Bill Clinton in the White House represent a great U.S. change of attitude toward Latin America?

[Sanin] In talks he held with several Latin American presidents, he said the current policy toward Latin America will not only be maintained but that the U.S. interest toward Latin America will be strengthened. It is very important to develop the Americas Initiative, therefore, the basic thing is to think of having a free zone by the year 2000 from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego, a free zone for all like the NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement] made up of Canada, the United States, and Mexico, and Colombia would like to join this free trade agreement in the near future.

We believe that the integration being achieved through the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] and our current integration through the Andean Pact are transitory processes. Everyone must understand first of all that Latin American integration is a priority at this moment. Obviously, this integration must reach all of America, as was Bolivar's dream. But we must harmonize our integration processes; we must get them closer to each other.

[Fernandez Bogado] There are serious problems in the U.S. internal economy on the one hand, and, on the other hand, the archenemy of the United States, the Soviet Union, and the Cold War issue have disappeared. They are now part of history. Now that all these issues have been the focus of attention or have been disregarded in some cases, what can Latin America as a whole do to sit at a negotiating table with greater advantages, to show all its potential at the negotiations table, seeking more advantages as compared with the United States and other European countries?

[Sanin] Latin America has allowed the train of history to go by in the international field. Latin America has been the victim of the East-West tensions caused by the Cold War. Cold War confrontations were experienced in many of its countries. And the world has placed many resources at the service of war. We have not found the same solidarity for peace or democracy. We have seen, for instance, how Nicaragua is enduring economic difficulties because of the lack of some millions of dollars that could be obtained easily during the Cold War. And this is the situation in many of our countries. Latin America must be an actor and protagonist in the formation of this new international order because if Latin America is not united, if we do not join efforts, and if we do not work for an agreed-upon policy, a policy of union, we will again be ignoring what is happening in the world, unaware of international decisions. But fortunately our presidents have understood that our role is protagonistic. We want to reform the UN Charter. The UN Security Council cannot have the right to veto; there can be no countries with privileges and that cannot permanently be on the UN Security Council. Thus, we want a much more balanced world. If we are united, and if we are really integrated, we are going to be important in the international scene. I believe that if someone on the planet decides to land in the world and look at the overall situation, taking into account the hope for the future, I think he would choose Latin America. We have no xenophobia problem. We are developing at an acceptable rate. The living conditions of our people are better than in many other countries, especially if the problems of poverty and inequality are solved. We have many opportunities.

Part of the objective of my visit at the cordial invitation of the Paraguayan foreign minister is to identify these opportunities. We have thought that the main actors of integration must be the private businessmen, the people, because the opportunities emerge when they know each other.

Paraguayan Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken was telling me, for instance, about the possibility of brining Colombian technology to produce flowers to Paraguay. We are the second-largest country in the world in exporting flowers. We have the second-largest production of flowers after the Netherlands. This has generated new employment opportunities and development in Colombia. And we would like to bring this technology, to create joint ventures with Paraguay. We can take advantage of those planes that fly almost empty to carry flowers from Paraguay in association with Colombia. This also can take place in the sugar industry. We also have an excellent textile industry. We are finding many opportunities at the level of small and medium-size industries.

Thus, we are willing to share all this with Paraguay. This is the reason for our visit. We want Paraguayan businessmen to go to Colombia during the first quarter next year and meet with their Colombian counterparts, seeking opportunities to work together.

[Fernandez Bogado] In conclusion, Madam Foreign Minister, is the fact that you are a woman a great advantage in Colombia?

[Sanin] It is a characteristic. Half the population is male and half is female. The advantage perhaps comprises the study, the training, and the effort they make. I represent a people that has been characterized by that effort, because our main revolution has been to improve education, to provide access by the people to education. My condition as a woman is neither an advantage nor a disadvantage.

[Fernandez Bogado] Are you not a feminist?

[Sanin] Well, I believe in women, but I believe in a educated woman, a woman who can go to the university, a woman who has equal possibilities to have access to opportunities. Unfortunately, throughout Latin America, and Colombia is no exception to this, we have peasant women who are completely uneducated, not even with elementary education. But to the extent that women can reach the universities, can have access to education, they also will have equal opportunities.

[Fernandez Bogado] You have been very kind to be with us tonight.

[Sanin] A very special greeting to the Paraguayan people. I am looking forward to seeing you in Colombia.

## Colonel Arrested for Failure to Follow Procedures

*PA0912192692 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Dec 92*

[Excerpt] A few hours ago Colonel Guillermo Lora Ramirez, commander of Mechanized Group No. 2 Rondon who was stationed in Villanueva, Guajira, was arrested. The arrest warrant was issued by General Luis Humberto Correa Castaneda because, in his opinion, Col. Lora did not follow standard procedure. Col. Lora, who had been transferred, harshly criticized the structure of the military institution in his farewell speech. Lora Ramirez said that 20 years ago the Army was more efficient and had more of a mystique.

Col. Lora said that two decades ago the Army had more pride. These days dignity and credibility have been lost, as all [words indistinct] for the armed institution is

darkening. He also warned that the chain of command is weak and ambiguous. Lora said the commanders are not consulted on the needs of the various battalions, and the Army lacks equipment and uniforms. He warned that the capacity to respond militarily has been lost, and that an unspoken rule is applied to obtain promotions. [passage omitted]

### Army Commander Discusses Criticism by Lora

*PA1012133092 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Dec 92*

[Report by Myriam Ortiz]

[Text] An exemplary military career may have been shortened due to Colonel Guillermo Lora's speech the day he presided over a change of command ceremony in Villanueva, Guajira. Today he is under arrest.

[Begin Lora recording] The Army of yesteryear was better; it was respected more and had greater dignity when compared to today's Army. Before creating mobile brigades and antiguerrilla battalions, let us analyze our internal situation. We should care for and support our man in the ranks. Here lies the main problem: A lack of [word indistinct] and a lack of morale. It is better to have a few hand-picked men than many men to make up a heap. The [words indistinct] number is the least of all problems. There is a saying: The few are worth more when they are good. [end recording]

These words fell like a bombshell on the Army's inner circle. Colonel Lora Ramirez not only asked to reflect and use self-criticism on the current structure and administrative policies, but he also said that today's Army has lost its previous capacity to respond because some of its commanders do not even have the basic attitude for such a delicate and decisive endeavor. He also added that a mediocre leader creates mediocre situations.

[Begin recording] [General Hernan Guzman] Undoubtedly, one cannot expect anything better from mediocre commanders. I believe he is demonstrating that he has been mediocre.

[Ortiz] Did the colonel lie by saying everything he said, or is he right on some points, if not on everything?

[Guzman] I believe people like yourself can evaluate the military's situation better than I can evaluate it because you are the one who daily passes severe judgment on it. The military institution is moving ahead. [end recording]

Whether these are the facts or not, the truth is that this spontaneity, and why not say it, Col. Guillermo Lora Ramirez' sincerity, will not only get him arrested, but may possibly lead to his outright dismissal from the Army. Military discipline does not accept that these troubles be vented publicly because there are regular channels for this.

[Begin Guzman recording] There is a hierarchy within the military institution. At no time did the officer request the regular channels to speak directly to his superior and tell him of his troubles. [end recording]

The drastic way this case was dealt with is a clear indication that the military does not permit this type of criticism by active personnel. As far as the institution is concerned, dirty laundry is better washed at home.

### Report Blames Weather for Helicopter Crash

*PA1012015392 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Dec 92*

[Text] Funeral services were held in Santa Fe de Bogota for three of the officers who died in the 4 December police helicopter crash in Putumayo. Two majors and one lieutenant received posthumous honors. It was confirmed the accident involving a Bell 212 helicopter which killed eight high-ranking police officers was due to bad weather. The police discarded any possibility of a guerrilla attack. A special police and Air Force commission is investigating the accident.

## Paraguay

### Participation in Mercosur Subgroups Under Evaluation

*PY1012142092 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 10 Dec 92 p 13*

[Excerpts] The Industry and Commerce Ministry, as the coordinator of the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] subgroups that deal with trade agreements, has decided not to participate in the meetings of the subgroups until Argentina eliminates or reduces the statistics fee where Paraguay is concerned. Industry Vice Minister Ruben Fadlala has said: "We cannot progress with group agreements if there are no solutions in the political sphere."

Fadlala indicated that Paraguay's decision not to participate in the meetings of the Mercosur subgroups is exclusively for technical and administrative reasons. It is simple: Agreements cannot be reached among the subgroups while the policies of our neighbors within the framework of integration point in another direction. In other words, if they go against what has been agreed, signed, and ratified as a national law in four countries: The Mercosur Treaty.

He referred specifically to the increase of the statistics fee from 3 to 10 percent that Argentina has implemented and which is harming Paraguayan exports to that neighboring country. Regarding Brazil, even before the macroeconomic measures are harmonized, they are already having a negative impact on integrationist interests. He indicated that these problems originate in the "serious political problems" that are being experienced by our larger partners. [passage omitted]

Fadlala indicated that last week President Andres Rodriguez and our ministers had asked Argentine President Carlos Menem, Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo, and Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella for a solution to the impasse. "We have submitted several solutions to them, including solutions outside Mercosur at the level of the ALADI [Latin American Integration Association], but we have not received an answer," he said.

He then indicated that at this time Paraguay is expecting some favorable solution regarding the statistics fee. "We cannot continue to solve what does not have a technical and administrative solution. We cannot continue to try to harmonize from a technical viewpoint if matters are not resolved at the political level," he said. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken said on 9 December that the Mercosur Department of the Foreign Ministry is also studying Paraguay's position within Mercosur to see if it will continue to participate in the meetings if Argentina does not review its decision to increase the statistics fee from 3 to 10 percent, which is harming Paraguayan exports to Argentina. [passage omitted]

## Peru

### Fujimori Notes Fewer Human Rights Violations

*PA1012044392 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Dec 92*

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori reiterated on 9 December the government's total respect for human rights and stressed this is recognized abroad. He explained the number of complaints of alleged violations of those fundamental rights has gone down 10 times. The head of state visited Ayacucho on the occasion of the 168th anniversary of the battle that sealed the independence of Peru and America. He also inaugurated the Mayoc-Acco Highway, which links Ayacucho and Huancavelica Departments. Here is a report by Vanesa Rios.

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] After three and one-half months the highway is open and ready for the flow of traffic to bring progress and development.

[Rios] The president boarded a helicopter in Chulcampa Province. He was accompanied by five ministers, the Armed Forces general commanders, the National Police director, and members of the diplomatic corps. He arrived at the site of the ceremony, where La Quinua civilian, military, and religious authorities, members of the peasant defense patrols, and residents were waiting for him. The city declared him a distinguished guest.

[Fujimori] Neither Peru nor any of the brother republics represented here have forgotten those who with supreme courage and matchless heroism gave us a fatherland and a future. In this historic site of La Quinua, I reiterate my pledge that before the end of my mandate, the Shining Path and Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement will be totally defeated. Bringing peace to Peru is the biggest objective of my government. It is the axis around which all my regional policies revolve. Without peace there will be no development in Peru, no civilized coexistence or culture, no defense of human rights, and we will not have the investments we need to vitalize our economy. Long live Ayacucho! [crowd shouts: "Long Live Ayacucho!"] Long live Peru! [crowd shouts: "Long Live Peru!"]

[Rios] Fujimori's speech capped the ceremony marking the 168th anniversary of the Battle of Ayacucho here in La Quinua. Immediately afterward, the head of state mingled with the crowd that attended the ceremony.

[Unidentified reporter] The Ayacucho bishop referred to human rights. How much progress has been made in this area since the start of the National Emergency and Reconstruction Government?

[Fujimori] We must strive to defend human rights and to prevent violations. Our priority, however, is to save the human rights of 22 million Peruvians. That is why we seek peace so eagerly.

[Reporter] Do you feel that this mistaken notion of human rights has been corrected abroad?

[Fujimori] It is changing. What better voice than that of Monsignor Cipriani, who lives here? This is a strife torn area, and he has taken a very clear stance on human rights violations. Those violations will be totally eradicated when the Shining Path disappears from the country.

[Reporter] Has there been a reduction of human rights violations?

[Fujimori] According to statistics, the number of human rights violations has gone down 10 times. [end recording]

### San Roman on Government Persecution, Death Threats

*PA1012041692 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Dec 92*

[Text] Former Senator Maximo San Roman has charged that he has received death threats against himself, his relatives, and his employees.

[Begin San Roman recording] The government is persecuting the most qualified leaders of the democratic opposition. Not only has it involved me in this action [the 13 November coup attempt], but it has done the same with other outstanding politicians and parliamentarians such as Fernando Belaunde Terry, Luis Bedoya Reyes, Alberto Borea Odria, Mercedes Cabanillas, Abel Salinas, Javier Diez Canseco, and Ricardo Letts.

In my case, there has been intimidation and repression to the extreme. Investigations are under way by the police and the District Attorney's Office merely because I delivered to the media a document asking for an investigation of the Giron Huanta killings. There have

been attacks against my personal safety, my family, and my employees both at my home and my business. There has been a systematic attack against me and against those who are waging a legitimate democratic opposition.

I am notifying the OAS and the UN Human Rights Commissions and Amnesty International of this situation. [end recording]

### Jaime Salinas Lopez Leaves for Asylum in Argentina

*PA0912175592 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Dec 92*

[Report by Cesar Lengua]

[Text] Jaime Salinas Lopez Torres, son of General Jaime Salinas Sedo who led the 13 November coup attempt, left for Buenos Aires, Argentina on 9 December. Salinas Lopez Torres left the Argentine Embassy in Lima amid tight security.

After obtaining their respective safe-conducts, Salinas Lopez Torres and businessmen Julio Vera and Jorge Polack were escorted by Peruvian Foreign Ministry representatives who had arrived at the Argentine Embassy several hours earlier to coordinate prior arrangements.

Salinas Lopez Torres and Foreign Minister Julian Li Castro [name and title as heard] left the Argentine Embassy in a diplomatic vehicle without making any comments. The police escort was redoubled both on the way to and inside the Jorge Chavez Airport where the vehicle arrived at 0200 in the morning. The car caravan entered the airport by the ramp that leads to the domestic flight area.

The Argentine Airlines flight left for Buenos Aires at 0215 in the morning. Salinas Lopez Torres will remain in Buenos Aires until it is proven he had nothing to do with the military coup headed by his father. It was learned that the Peruvian Government reserves the right to request Salinas' extradition if Peruvian judicial authorities choose to do so.

## Venezuela

### Opposition Leaders Charge Electoral Fraud

*PA0912225492 Paris AFP in Spanish 2150 GMT 9 Dec 92*

[Text] Caracas, 9 Dec (AFP)—The rising number of charges of electoral fraud shook Venezuela on 9 December, resulting in violent outbreaks in several regions of the country, according to several sources.

Venezuela held regional and municipal elections on 6 December for the posts of 22 governors, 283 mayors, and 2,116 councilmen. Final results have not yet been announced.

Fighting almost broke out in Caracas, [words indistinct], Margarita Island, Lara, Portuguesa, Sucre, Guarico States, and the Delta Amacuro Territory. The leaders of opposition political parties and electoral groups, including former president Rafael Caldera (1964-1979), are reporting fraud attempts and decrying the excessive slowness of the announcement of results by the Supreme Electoral Council.

Caldera said "in some states it is clear to the people who won the election. This situation reminds me of when I was elected and the members of the Democratic Action [AD] recognized my victory eight days following the elections."

Based on unofficial results, the Social Christian Party has reportedly won from 12 to 13 governorships, the Movement Toward Socialism won from four to five, the ruling AD won approximately four, and the Radical Cause Party won one.

### Official Responds to Charges

*PA1012043692 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 9 Dec 92*

[Text] We interviewed Governor Mariano Navarro by telephone on reports of alleged fraud in the election process in Lara charged by former President Rafael Caldera. He said he was ready to present copies of the ballots to the Supreme Electoral Council to confirm the vote tally.

[Begin recording] [Navarro] I think the statements made by Rafael Caldera are rather strange coming from a man who has occupied such high positions all across Venezuela. He knows each political party has a copy of the ballots issued during the election process. Of course, if anyone feels he is being cheated, he can verify the number of votes he won at each of the tables and then file his protest to the proper authorities. To talk of fraud where it does not exist, to say there are irregular activities going on when men and women who are dedicated to the democratic system are doing an honest job; and where the parties themselves—Movement for Socialism, the Social Christian Party, and Democratic Action—are signing each one of the ballots that are being drawn up during the final tallying process. [sentence as received] It is truly unworthy of the posts and activities that have distinguished Mr. Caldera's career.

This is why I now tell Mr. Caldera that if he has any doubts, I will be glad to give him a copy of all the ballots and the tallying records. If any of them is found to have some sort of irregularity, I will be the first to admit it. To make these remarks on television, which so many people watch, is not becoming of Mr. Caldera's position. I will be glad to clarify any doubts for his representative, or client Macario Gonzalez, and locate the correct data and then make an official statement. Therefore, Mr. Caldera, I ask you to get the true information before you talk to the public. [end recording]

## Perez Says Democracy Winner of 6 Dec Elections

*PA1012020192 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0003 GMT 10 Dec 92*

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez said the big winner of the 6 December elections was democracy, which was strengthened because the Venezuelan people confirmed that they want to live in such a system. The president said this during a news conference in Barcelona after presenting his Christmas and New Year greetings to the military garrisons in eastern Venezuela.

[Begin Perez recording, broadcast in progress] ....the vitality of Venezuelan democracy. An alert has been issued to the political parties. If they do not renew their structure and revitalize their message, they will be removed from Venezuelan politics. That is the important thing. The big winner was Venezuelan democracy and the political parties. All parties have been taught and experienced an extraordinary lesson. The virtue and the greatness of democracy is that it makes these experiences possible so corrections can be made. This is not the case with coups or dictatorial governments, which close off all possibilities for analysis, criticism, dialogue, or disagreement. [end recording]

## Supreme Electoral Council Names 19 Governors

*PA1012044492 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2250 GMT 9 Dec 92*

[Text] A bulletin issued by the Supreme Electoral Council, headed by Isidro Morales Paul, indicates 19 of 22 Venezuelan states already have governors according to the results of the 6 December municipal elections:

[Begin Morales recording] Aristobulo Isturiz of Radical Cause [Cause-R] won in Libertador Municipality; Osvaldo Martinez of Movement toward Socialism [MAS] is apparently ahead in Vargas Municipality according to information we have received; Ovidio Gonzalez of the Social Christian Party [Copei] and People's Electoral Movement won in Anzoategui; Marcelo [words indistinct] in Apure; Carlos Tablante of MAS in Aragua; Andres Velasquez of Cause-R in Bolivar; Enrique Salas Romer of Copei in Carabobo; Jose Felipe Machado of Copei in Cojedes; Aldo Cermeno of Copei in Falcon; Malave Rizzo of Copei in Guarico; Melida Rondon Nucete of Copei in Merida; (Arnaldo Anocha) of Copei in Miranda; Guillermo Cal of Democratic Action [AD] in Monagas; Elias Dona of AD in Portuguesa; Ramon Martinez of MAS in Sucre; Jose Rondon Sandoval of AD in Tachira; Jose Mendez of AD in Trujillo; Nelson Suarez of Copei in Yaracuy; Osvaldo Alvarez Paz of Copei in Zulia; Edgar Sayago of MAS in Amazonas; and Emeri Mata Millan of Copei in Delta Amacuro. [end recording]